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FEBRUARY 1978

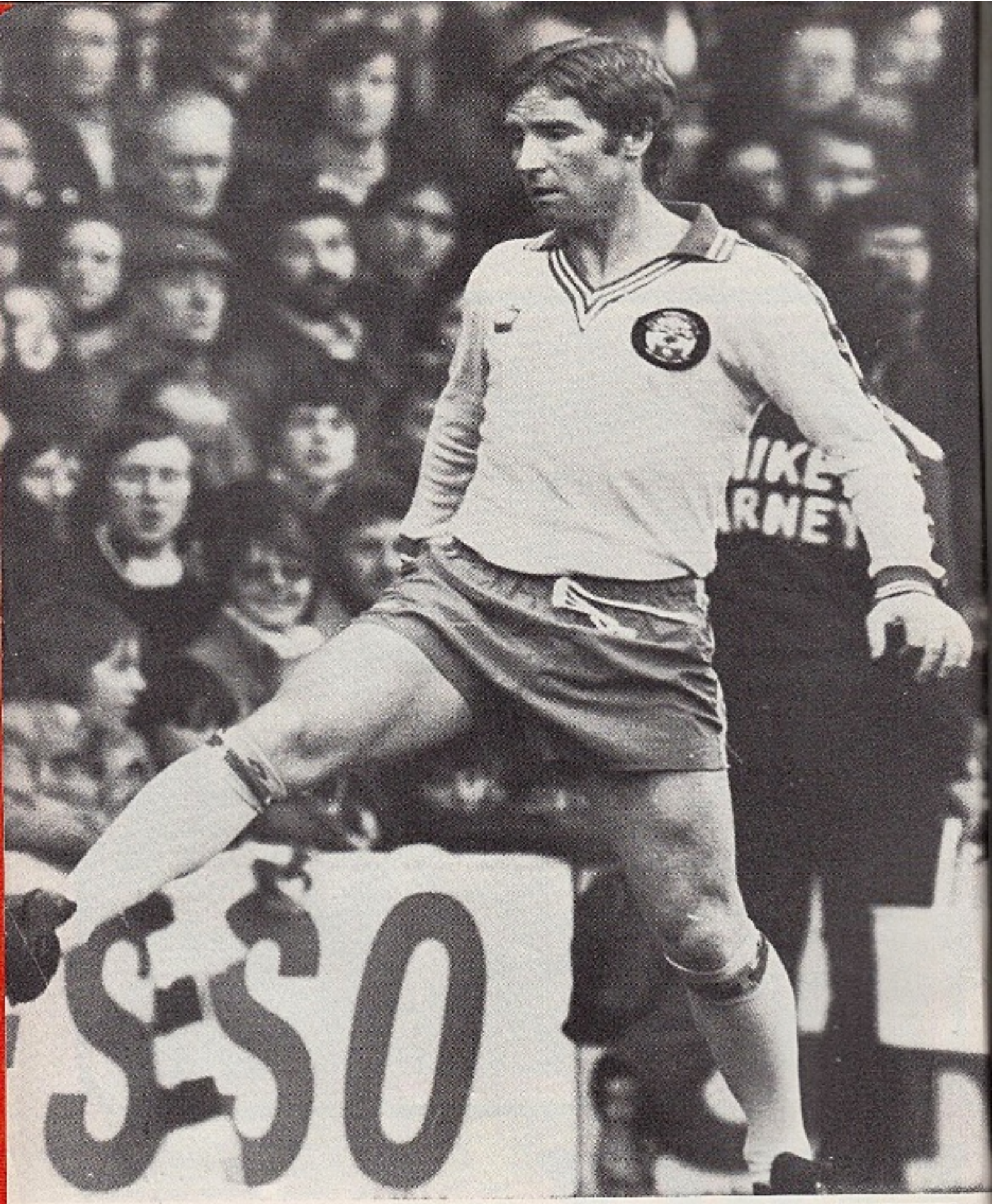
WORLD SOCCER

The *INTERNATIONAL* Magazine

45p

ITALY

Back row left to right: Gentile, Graziani, Zoff, Bettega, Mozzini, Benetti.
Front row: Causio, Facchetti, Antognoni, Zaccarelli, Tardelli.



ALAN BALL Southampton

World SOCCER

REAL HOPE FOR EUROPE

IF THE World Cup draw has achieved anything, it is to give Europe real hope that for the first time they may provide the winner of Finals being played in South America.

World Cup draw by Keir Radnedge

In 1930 Uruguay won at home; in 1950 they won again in Brazil; in 1962 and 1970 Brazil won first in Chile then in Mexico. And only Brazil, in Sweden in 1958, have ever won the world crown outside their own continent.

Now, in a Finals series top-heavy with European representation who have in the main been favoured by the draw, there is a strong possibility of Argentina's fans seeing World Cup history.

And, of all the nations whose officials gathered in the Teatro General San Martin on January 14, those from West Germany, Holland, Poland and Scotland couldn't help but emerge the happiest.

Does anything strike you about those four countries? The facts, for example, that they include the first three from 1974 plus the only team unbeaten in the West German Finals, Scotland? So perhaps their efforts then have been rewarded for, on paper, I can see Europe taking six of the eight second-round places — and all those four among them, with West Germany, inevitable favourites, possibly to face Brazil in the last match in the River Plate stadium on June 25.

But all that is yet to come. What about the draw itself? — How much of a lottery was it, and how much was pre-planned?

Speaking to *World Soccer's* Buenos Aires correspondent, Eric Weil, on the morning of the draw I said I thought it was little more than a public relations exercise — the first official ceremony relevant to the Finals in June.

Eric thought there was more to it than that and, in the event, I think we could both feel somewhat justified.

It was an open secret in Buenos Aires that as little as possible had been left to chance and the hands of three-year-old Ricardo Teixeira Havelange — grandson of the FIFA president Joao Havelange — who made the draw.

Two days before the draw, the organising committee got together in Buenos Aires ostensibly to decide which teams should be seeded and which paired together to provide a fairly equable final four groups. In fact, these decisions had already been taken — all that was needed was ratification, plus a decision on whether Holland or Italy should be fourth seeds behind Argentina, West Germany and Brazil.

This was the most complicated matter.

Long before these meetings it had seemed fairly certain that Italy, with their record of twice having won the Cup and once having finished runners-up, would win the prize.

SECOND ROUND

The winners of Groups One and Three and the runners-up from Groups Two and Four will compete in Group A at Buenos Aires and Cordoba. The remaining four teams compete in Group B at Rosario and Mendoza. The third-place match is on June 24, the Final on June 25 — both games in the River Plate stadium in Buenos Aires.

Indeed, they had already surreptitiously picked out the camp they would use on the outskirts of the Andean town of Mendoza. President Havelange was even unwise enough to let the cat out of the bag in advance.

And, after all, World Cups have to make money to support FIFA, and Italy — with the support they would draw from emigrant Italians — would obviously be well placed on

● *Continued on page 20*

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FRONT COVER PICTURE

TUNISIA continue our series of World Cup finalists to be featured on the cover of World Soccer.

GROUP ONE

ARGENTINA **FRANCE**
HUNGARY **ITALY**

JUNE 2: Hungary v Argentina ..... Buenos Aires (River Plate)
France v Italy ..... (Mar Del Plata)
JUNE 6: Argentina v France ..... Buenos Aires (River Plate)
Italy v Hungary ..... Mar Del Plata
JUNE 10: Italy v Argentina ..... Buenos Aires (River Plate)
France v Hungary ..... Mar Del Plata

GROUP TWO

POLAND **TUNISIA**
W. GERMANY **MEXICO**

JUNE 1: W. Germany v Poland ..... Buenos Aires (River Plate)
JUNE 2: Tunisia v Mexico ..... Rosario
JUNE 6: Mexico v W. Germany ..... Cordoba
Poland v Tunisia ..... Rosario
JUNE 10: Tunisia v W. Germany ..... Cordoba
Mexico v Poland ..... Rosario

GROUP THREE

AUSTRIA **SWEDEN**
SPAIN **BRAZIL**

JUNE 3: Sweden v Brazil ..... Mar Del Plata
Spain v Austria ..... Buenos Aires (Velez)
JUNE 7: Spain v Brazil ..... Mar Del Plata
Austria v Sweden ..... Buenos Aires (Velez)
JUNE 11: Brazil v Austria ..... Mar Del Plata
Sweden v Spain ..... Buenos Aires (Velez)

GROUP FOUR

HOLLAND **PERU**
IRAN **SCOTLAND**

JUNE 3: Holland v Iran ..... Mendoza
Peru v Scotland ..... Cordoba
JUNE 7: Holland v Peru ..... Mendoza
Scotland v Iran ..... Cordoba
JUNE 11: Holland v Scotland ..... Mendoza
Peru v Iran ..... Cordoba

French financial scandal exposed

by Keir Radnedge

FRENCH soccer's celebrations over World Cup success have been rudely interrupted by a major financial scandal involving first division Paris Saint-Germain — a sort of football Watergate.

And a hastily-convened commission of inquiry set up by the French FA has banned PSG president Daniel Hechter, the world-famous couturier, from soccer for life.

Also banned have been two club officials, Michel Peschaud, and Philippe Lacourtablasie. The club, however, are being allowed to continue in the first division and, a few days after the storm broke, surprised and delighted their supporters by thrashing league leaders Marseille 5-1 in the Parc des Princes!

So what was the crime?

Simply, it was to print two sets of tickets for matches. One set was sold openly through the official club offices to the general public, and the second set was sold privately by players and officials.

The result was that the official attendance and receipt figures released to the Press after the match, reported to the FA, government tax authorities and visiting clubs were the figures from the open sale of tickets.

The cash from the black market sales went into a secret fund which was used to pay illegal inducements to players, and boost signing-on fees to enable PSG, for example, to tempt stars such as Carlos Bianchi from Reims, and defender Ramon Heredia from Atletico Madrid.

The players themselves didn't know, presumably, that this secret fund existed and that this was used towards their signing-on fees and wages.

The scandal broke while Hechter was in the United States on business, and he refused to comment until he had returned to Paris and held talks with club officials.

Questioned by newspaper reporters he then admitted he had discovered that last May the club had sold double sets of tickets.

Face facts

"This system was used in five league matches," he said. And then added: "But let's face facts — in most of our first division clubs the players are given under-the-table payments in addition to their regular wages."

Hechter said that on discovering what was happening, he ordered an end to the double scale, claiming that it had been organised by Lacourtablasie without his knowledge. But later he found that the fund was still in existence when examining the club's books. (Though the idea of this fund was to keep income *out* of the books!).

Rumours that the system had been in operation have long been circulating in French soccer circles, but it was only recently that the FA discovered the evidence — still kept secret from the general public — to enable their five-man commission to pass judgement on Hechter.

His reaction to the decision was to call it "scandalous" — an ironic comment in itself, and there was a minor scuffle involving commission members and PSG staff when the announcement was made.

The commission has passed on its evidence to the judicial authorities, and PSG officials and Hechter himself could yet find themselves facing criminal charges — for the effect of the double sale was to deprive the FA and visiting clubs of income, as well as mislead the tax department.

PSG are now 10th in the first division, and their plight adds another sorry chapter to the story of soccer in one of the world's greatest cities.

It is about 15 years since the famous Racing Club de Paris had to disband as a professional football organisation after running deep into debt, and for much of the time since Paris has had to go without a first division football club.

Paris Saint-Germain were promoted thanks to the *barrages* — the play-off between lowly first division and leading second division clubs — almost four years ago.

They had trouble holding their own at first, but in the past year or two had promised to achieve some sort of success — if not in the league at least in the Cup.

However the departure at the end of last season of the Yugoslav coach Velibor Vasovic unsettled the players, and Bianchi — the top-scoring Argentine who was such a scourge of defences while with Reims — has found it difficult to adjust.

Then there was a great deal of controversy over the arrival of Jean-Michel Larque. He left Saint-Etienne, where he had been captain and midfield general, under a cloud at the end of last season after a row with Robert Herbin.

Interviewed immediately by Hechter, he agreed to take over as player-coach, but within a few weeks had to admit that the dual role was beyond him and retired from playing to concentrate on managing.

Sadly, PSG are not the only Parisien club in financial trouble. Second division Red Star were very nearly driven into liquidation a few weeks before because one creditor became impatient at the lack of response over a comparatively meagre £4,000 bill which had been due since 1969.

How strange, that amid the great renaissance of French football, the capital cannot produce a club worthy of its name.

Jordan signs for United

Scottish international Joe Jordan, 26, signs for Manchester United for a record transfer fee of £350,000.

ASIAN FOOTBALL IN A TURMOIL

Robin Parke reports from Hong Kong

ASIAN and world soccer circles were rocked in December by the resignation of the former Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tengku Abdul Rahman, as the president of the Asian Football Confederation. He quit in despair after the AFC ignored demands from the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) to re-instate Israel and expel China at an extraordinary Congress held in Hong Kong and attended by delegates from 19 Middle Eastern and Asian nations.

The not unexpected decision to largely ignore the FIFA ultimata has now placed the AFC on a direct collision course with the world body and punitive action was expected to be taken when the FIFA Congress convenes in Buenos Aires on January 12.

Immediately after news of the AFC's provocative stand had flashed round the world a spokesman for FIFA in Zurich said: "Our standpoint at present is that the AFC has until January 12, that is the day before our Executive Committee meeting in Argentina, to reverse its decisions or face sanctions.

This is the crux of the matter for soccer nations of Asia.

There can be no doubt that FIFA will immediately suspend the AFC and withdraw from them the mandate given to organise competitions in Asia, such as the Asian Youth Tournament and the Asian Cup.

Withdrawn

However, they are also expected to seek a quick declaration from national associations in Asia that they will withdraw from the AFC — or face individual expulsion from FIFA. This last course would spell disaster for organised soccer in the Asian region.

It would entail non-involvement in the World Cup — Singapore hosted a highly successful preliminary round tournament in February — and a ban on foreign teams visiting and playing in Asian countries who remain in the AFC.

It would, in reality, mean almost complete isolation from those controlling the world's most popular spectator sport.

The present confrontation has been brought about by the actions of a powerful group of politically-motivated activists within the hierarchy of the AFC, notably Mr Henry Fok, the President of the Hong Kong Football Association and the new acting president of the AFC, Mr Kamiz Atabai of Iran.

Mr Fok, a multi-millionaire with wide real estate interests in Hong Kong, has very close business links with China on which the foundations of his fortune have been laid. He was very active in the formation of the breakaway World Badminton Federation which took place recently following the refusal of the International Badminton Federation to seat China in place of Taiwan.

Much the same course has been adopted in the present dispute. Backed by the powerful Middle Eastern nations, who are believed to have traded support for China for the expulsion of Israel in the AFC, the AFC Congress in 1974, and again in 1976, voted to expel Israel — for security reasons — and Taiwan from the continental body, seating China instead.

Predictably, FIFA eventually acted — but not until a FIFA Congress in Montreal in 1976 had refused to seat China and expel Taiwan. The motion failed to gain the necessary three-quarter majority.

China was offered membership on FIFA's terms which did not include the expulsion of Taiwan and brusquely rejected the offer.

Deadline

In Monte Carlo earlier this year the FIFA Executive Committee gave the AFC six months to re-instate Israel and Taiwan and expel China. This deadline was extended through the intervention of the President of FIFA, Dr Joao Havelange of Brazil, until January 12.

The resignation of the Tengku, who had held the presidential office for two decades, shook the AFC and has caused great concern in both Asian and world circles. He is an immensely respected figure in Asian soccer, largely dwarfing those who opposed him at the Hong Kong Congress.

The Tengku pointed out the dangers of confrontation when he addressed the Congress. He said: "My advice to you is to give this matter your utmost thought and consideration and do not be influenced by those whose association with the AFC is but recent, and whose interest is purely political."

Predictably, the Tengku was accused of trying to create "two Chinas" and of interfering in the internal affairs of China by representatives of the People's Republic at the meeting.

He returned to the rostrum to refute the allegations. He said: "I have been accused of trying to create two Chinas through football but I am speaking as a president of a footballing confederation and not as a politician.

"Membership of FIFA is based not on political considerations. It is that a country runs football regardless of religion, race or politics.

"I say that Taiwan has the right to be a FIFA member and they have given no problems to the AFC by their resignation as a member," he added.

Liu Chin Shan of the Republic of China.

Ironically, when one considers that, by the time you read this, the AFC will almost certainly have lost FIFA membership, they are still trying to obtain more representation in the World Cup.

They resolved at the extraordinary Congress to approach FIFA and ask them to ensure that in 1982 and thereafter there be two teams from Asia and two from Africa in the finals. Their chances would appear to be suitably remote.

It now remains for FIFA to decide on what immediate action to take at their Buenos Aires meeting.

But they should know that the majority of responsible people connected with football in, at least, South East Asia do not go along with the politicians who have put the AFC on their collision course with the world body.

It is, however, a time of crisis in Asian football — but FIFA should not waver in their resolve to act immediately and with the justification that is theirs.

European Footballer of the year 1977

Simonsen wins award but it was poor year

ALLAN SIMONSEN became the first Dane to win the European Footballer of the Year award when he just managed to top the annual poll organised by the Paris magazine, *France Football* (writes KEIR RADNEDGE).

But the lack of one truly outstanding player making his mark on the year was emphasised by the fact that Simonsen finished only three points ahead of runner-up Kevin Keegan, and four in front of third-placed Frenchman, Michel Platini.

During the summer you might have got pretty good odds against Simonsen taking the award — there seemed two candidates only. One was Keegan, for his excellent display in Rome which took Liverpool to the Champions' Cup at the expense of Simonsen's Borussia Moenchengladbach, and the other possible was Roberto Bettega, whose goals took Juventus to the Italian league title and the UEFA Cup.

I suspect Simonsen stole past both of them more because of their shortcomings later on then his own ability — impressive though that is. Keegan found his early days at Hamburg troubled, particularly with the Cup-winners' Cup elimination and the exit of manager Peter Krohn and coach Rudi Gutendorf.

Bettega, despite firing a hat-trick against Finland in the World Cup, discovered that the Italians he met in run of the mill league matches were far less impressed by his reputation and goals were thus at a premium.

Bettega finished fourth, with the talented young French general Platini one place above him. Platini certainly couldn't have earned his high voting from performances at club level, for Nancy aren't even among the cream in the French first division, let alone Europe.

Talented

Instead, Platini did so well because he was the representative of the renaissance which has hit French football and brought them back into the World Cup Finals. He is also enormously talented, and though his recent announcement that he would stay with Nancy beyond the end of his present contract was admirable in its principle of loyalty, it's hard to imagine that Nancy will be able to hold out very long if Barcelona, as is possible, offer them virtually the earth to sign him as replacement for Johan Cruyff.

The Dutchman, the only player to have won the *Ballon d'Or* three times and two years in succession, finished fifth this time — but with only 23 votes.

How seriously can one take such polls? This one is by far the most prestigious of the individual awards, but it has flaws enough to contend with.

France Football invite a leading sports journalist in each European country to list the five players they think have been most outstanding throughout the year. This year 26 countries took part — absentees including only the minnows such as Iceland and Liechtenstein, while Max Marquis, who voted for England, was in fact also doing so for Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, who didn't have individual invitations.

The first player gains five points, the runner-up four and so on. After all the votes are cast the points are totalled up — and so, Simonsen emerged at the top of the pile. This despite English optimism that Keegan was home and dry, and despite a rumour current in France 10 days' before the result was announced, that Platini had become only the second Frenchman — Raymond Kopa in 1958 was the first — to take top prize.

That rumour was spread around Europe by the various news agencies and was sharply denied by *France Football*. One of their writers, Philippe Tournon, told me that in fact the story had been whipped up by a paper in the Nancy area based on the most tenuous of tip-offs.

One of the remarkable facts about the poll is the secrecy in which the result is shrouded until the announcement — always in *France Football's* last edition of the year.

One of the built-in flaws is that each voter is not restricted about naming a player of his own nationality or operating in one of his domestic league clubs. Thus exactly half of the 26 journalists named a 'home' player.

The voters who didn't were restricted to small fry such as Norway and Luxembourg and a large chunk of the Eastern European *bloc*. Hans Blickensdorfer of West Germany named Klaus Fischer, Simonsen and Jürgen Grabowski in his five; Max Marquis included Trevor Brooking and Gordon McQueen; Denmark's Poul Prip Andersen named Simonsen as his No. 1; Ireland's Dermot Ashmore named Steve Heighway as his No. 2 — the same place granted to Bettega by Italy's Ferruccio Berbenni, and to Anders Linderoth by Sweden's Paul Wackermann.

Now before anyone gets too uptight, I'm not accusing these men of overbias. It's natural that they will be particularly aware of their own men's right to be high in the rankings. But I wonder if *France Football* might consider outlawing 'home' votes just to put the award out of reach of any such criticism.

Discussion

While on the individual votes, British readers might be interested to know that Marquis put Bettega first, Brooking second, Simonsen third, Platini fourth and McQueen fifth. The only point for discussion is the inclusion of Brooking so high and the exclusion of Keegan.

But how many changes a year can bring! This time a year ago we were celebrating Franz Beckenbauer's triumph. Now he is lost to Europe — as the DFB confirmed when they banned TSV Munich 1860 from borrowing Kaiser Franz from New York Cosmos to help their fight against instant relegation. Also missing from last year's top three is Ivo Viktor, who has retired because of injury. That leaves Cruyff as the only past winner in the lists.

PAST WINNERS

1956 — Stanley Matthews (Blackpool, England)
1957 — Alfredo di Stefano (Real Madrid, Argentina, Spain)
1958 — Raymond Kopa (Real Madrid, France)
1959 — Di Stefano
1960 — Luis Suarez (Barcelona, Spain)
1961 — Omar Sivori (Juventus, Argentina, Italy)
1962 — Josef Masopust (Dukla Prague, Czechoslovakia)
1963 — Lev Yashin (Moscow Dynamo, Russia)
1964 — Denis Law (Manchester United, Scotland)
1965 — Silva Eusebio (Benfica, Portugal)
1966 — Bobby Charlton (Manchester United, England)
1967 — Florian Albert (Ferencvaros, Hungary)
1968 — George Best (Manchester United, Northern Ireland)
1969 — Gianni Rivera (Milan, Italy)
1970 — Gerd Müller (Bayern Munich, West Germany)
1971 — Johan Cruyff (Ajax, Holland)
1972 — Franz Beckenbauer (Bayern Munich, West Germany)
1973 — Cruyff (Barcelona, Holland)
1974 — Cruyff
1975 — Oleg Blokhin (Dynamo Kiev, Russia)
1976 — Beckenbauer

EUROPEAN FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR — 1977

1	ALLAN SIMONSEN (Borussia Mg and Denmark)	74 pts
2	KEVIN KEEGAN (Hamburg, England)	71
3	MICHEL PLATINI (Nancy, France)	70
4	Roberto Bettega (Juventus, Italy)	39
5	Johan Cruyff (Barcelona, Holland)	23
6	Klaus Fischer (Schalke, West Germany)	21
7	Tibor Nyilasi (Ferencvaros, Hungary)	13
	Rob Rensenbrink (Anderlecht, Holland)	13
9	Dudu Georgescu (Dinamo Bucharest, Rumania	6
10	Emlyn Hughes (Liverpool, England)	5
	Steve Heighway (Liverpool, Republic of Ireland)	5
	Berti Vogts (Borussia Mg, West Germany)	5
13	Dominique Bathenay (Saint-Etienne, France)	4
	Trevor Brooking (West Ham, England)	4
	Franco Causio (Juventus, Italy)	4
	Ronnie Hellstroem (Kaiserslautern, Sweden)	4
	Anders Linderoth (Marseille, Sweden)	4
18	Rudi Krol (Ajax Amsterdam, Holland)	3
	Marius Tresor (Marseille, France)	3
20	Rainer Bonhof (Borussia Mg, West Germany)	2
	Heinz Flohe (1st FC Köln, West Germany)	2
	Ruud Geels (Ajax Amsterdam, Holland)	2
	Dieter Muller (Köln, West Germany)	2
	Jose Pirri (Real Madrid, Spain)	2
	Peter Shilton (Nottingham Forest, England)	2
26	Giancarlo Antognoni (Fiorentina, Italy)	1
	Jürgen Grabowski (Eintracht Frankfurt, West Germany)	1
	Andras Torocsik (Ujpest Dozsa, Hungary)	1
	Gerard Janvion (Saint-Etienne, France)	1
	Ray Kennedy (Liverpool, England)	1
	Hans Krankl (Rapid Vienna, Austria)	1
	Gordon McQueen (Leeds, Scotland)	1

Allan Simonsen (front row, extreme right) pictured with his Borussia Monchengladbach colleagues.

One cause for regret about such awards is that, unless you have a truly great defender such as Beckenbauer or Lev Yashin around, the odds are it will go to a forward. In the 22 years of the *France Football* poll, forwards have finished top 18 times.

So, who is Simonsen? At just five feet seven, the little Dane has been with Borussia nearly five years, having been signed from Vejle on the recommendation of Henning Jensen, in 1973. He's played nearly 20 times for Denmark, and was 25 just over a week before the announcement that he had topped the poll.

He's become an indispensable part of the Borussia success story, playing a major part in the league hat-trick from 1975-1977, victory in the UEFA Cup in 1975, and last season's Champions' Cup run. Indeed, it was Simonsen who smacked in the equaliser which gave Borussia brief hope of pulling back against Liverpool in Rome.

It was Simonsen too who produced one of the night's great moments, curling a long pass round the back of the square Liverpool defence for the onrushing Uli Stielike. But Ray Clemence was quick to throw himself at the ball and a couple of minutes later Liverpool were back ahead.

Simonsen's effort was thus in vain — but the European award is a handy consolation prize.

Simonsen has worked hard enough for it. In the injury absence of Jupp Heynckes for so much of 1977 he was virtually a one-man forward line for Borussia, teasing opposing defenders with his skills on the ball and displaying his class particularly in the 3-0 away win over Vasas in the Champions' Cup, in which he scored a wonderful solo goal.

His nomination, plus those of team-mates Vogts and Bonhof, meant that Borussia finished equal with Liverpool (Hughes, Keegan, Kennedy) as the clubs with the most players cited in the awards. The best-represented country was West Germany (six — Fischer, Flohe, Vogts, Dieter Müller, Bonhof, Grabowski), followed by England (five — Keegan, Hughes, Brooking, Shilton — Finland's vote — and Kennedy).

Finally, one interesting curio with which to round off. Eleven voters placed Keegan at No. 1; only seven rated Simonsen so highly!

Leslie Vernon

THE YEAR

... the referee

THE Monte-Carlo Round-Table talking shop has decided to call 1978 "The Year of the Referee". This title, no doubt inspired by ancient Chinese philosophers, means that during the current year, alterations to the laws of the game will be seriously considered, and that referees will receive more effective support from the various governing bodies than has been the custom.

In fact, of course, it is a meaningless nonsense, since, however well-intentioned Prince Rainier and his selected band of would-be reformers are, they have no influence whatever where it matters. In any case, if my memory serves me right, every year is "The Year of the Referee", and it's only a matter of preference whether we like to see our officials oozing integrity or bribed or even fried and quartered.

Since in my admirably modest opinion a lot of nonsense is talked about referees, let me declare a vested interest on their behalf as a practising, registered ref. myself. But unfortunately refs. are often their own worst enemies, because decades of criticism have driven them into a state of acute persecution complex.

Take the case of Mr. Jim Bent, who had a dreadful game when he failed to control the Aston Villa v. West Bromwich tribal warfare. Jimmy Hill rightly castigated him on T.V. for his inconsistence.

(Incidentally, Hill was only doing his job as a B.B.C. football analyst – that's what he is paid for! But people resented it the same way as they resented the fact he blamed Alex Stepney for letting-in two soft goals against Porto. Why? I was at the match, and everybody present – 50,000 witnesses – also blamed Stepney. Dave Sexton shortly afterwards dropped the temporarily off-form goalkeeper, thus justifying Hill's opinion. But as 1977 was "The Year of Propagating Nonsense", a great many people said that Jimmy 'talks too much' on T.V. This is like criticising the newscasters for telling us what's happening in the world).

But back to Bent and his feeble answer to the general uproar which followed the mayhem at Villa Park, where Alex Cropley sustained a broken leg injury when crashtackled by an Albion defender. "Jimmy Hill is the best slow-motion referee in the game," he said, implying that his mistakes were due to the fact that he had to make instant decisions.

Yet, we saw two identical deliberate 'handball' incidents — one player was booked, but against the other, Bent merely awarded a free-kick — so he did see the offence without the help of slow-motion cameras!

Wild tackles went unpunished, thuggery was condoned. But, of course, such incompetent refereeing is not an isolated case even in the English League where, at present, the refereeing standards are abysmally low. On the other hand, I also agree with the sentiments that: "Our referees are too often made the whipping boys for the ignorance, intolerance, gamesmanship and downright cheating by others."

O.K. so what's the answer? Because a solution must be found to narrow the ever-widening gulf between the professionals who make their living out of the game, and the "amateur" officials. I do not believe that the introduction of full-time pro-referees would help, but it is imperative that Ken Ridden, the refs' overlord, uses his powers to introduce a different system of allocating matches.

Top official

At present, a top official like Pat Partridge controls only about 20-25 League and Cup games per season, he spends his remaining week-ends refereeing park-games! A squad of 30 referees should be selected, and they would officiate only First and Second Division matches every week.

Constantly being in action would give them added confidence, and in turn, they would gain the respect of the players. This is the practice on the Continent — for instance, in Holland, top ref. Corver is automatically entrusted with derby games like P.S.V. v Ajax. Palotai referees between 50-60 League and Cup games per season in Hungary. 'Giving the players a chance' is another misconception referees should wipe out of their dictionary.

They constantly tell me that it is a good idea not to be too harsh on tackles in the first 30 minutes of a match. Wrong! Show them who the boss is in the very first minute if necessary, and they will respect you for it. When the usual spate of bookings appear at the back-end of the first-half, it is often too late. I am, as I said before, on the side of the refs., but alas, it is often impossible to excuse their handling of a game.

... of England failures

IT was also "The Year of Continuing England Failures". We still had the best team in the world between matches (according to the media), but when it came to actually playing, our Admiral-kitted heroes performed like deckhands.

Holland demonstrated to us at Wembley in February how it should be done, but the guidance was ignored, and the 'deplorable Don' abandoned the sinking ship to seek salvation in the desert.

To the best of my knowledge, mirrors are not outlawed in the United Arab Emirates, and all I wish for Revie is that when he looks into one each morning, he is prompted to face the truth about himself.

The good news was Greenwood's appointment as England team manager, and he immediately proved his worth by appointing a team of assistants which included his most serious rivals for the job.

Alan Thompson wrote in the *Express*: "Ron Greenwood prepared the ground for his abdication as England manager when he announced the back-up team whose task is to put English football back on the map."

What a lot of bull . . .! Ron is simply big enough to recruit the best brains and expertise — two weeks after his appointment, he certainly has no plans to abdicate!

Candidate

Brian Clough was the most popular candidate due to the Nottingham miracle. But "Cloughie", although very likeable, is still not quite ready to represent England. His constant 'caged lion' act is becoming tiresome, his interference in West Brom's internal affairs was sheer effrontery. A few weeks ago, he arranged an interview with two prominent Dutch

and OF...

journalists, who came all the way from Rotterdam to see him.

Clough didn't keep the Bank Holiday midday rendezvous, and after the match, he told them that he was not in the mood to talk because Forest dropped a point. People don't really change . . .

Since this magazine has campaigned for years on behalf of Greenwood, there is no need to assure him of our continued trust and support, but in the wake of the frozen-lipped, poker-faced Sir Alf, and the mercenary prevaricator Revie, it's good to have an honest man of football at the helm.

... of America

THIS was also the "Year when America Discovered Soccer". Pele did the groundwork with the help of unlimited money, and lesser mortals are cashing-in on a boom which still might or might not be sustained. I find the noises which whine that we are in danger of losing our best assets to the rich Americans with the button-down collars and large cigars slightly nauseating.

Sorry

So far, we have only lost players well past their best and others nobody has ever heard of. However, I was genuinely sorry to see Gordon Jago and Malcolm Allison go. The former took a wrong turn in his career when he chose Millwall, where you can't possibly win. After the Fiona Richmond incident, only Paul Raymond of Revue Bar fame would give a decent job to Allison in England, so his departure was inevitable.

In any case, who are we to complain about 'foreign' competition? Look what the English clubs did to Scottish football — their League is a joke, a 'feeder' for the English First Division.

Scotland had the last, if slightly hollow, laugh by qualifying for the World Cup Finals. Players, apparently "badly coached" in England, suddenly found form when they put on the Scotland jersey. A lot of ill-informed codswallop was written during the year about coaching as well. Alan Thompson again: "I also firmly believe that players who reach full international selection do not need coaching — or if they do, they should not be there — but must always be prepared to listen to helpful suggestions."

What's the difference between "coaching" and "helpful etc."? Do we have eleven paragons with no weaknesses in their game? Are they all equally proficient with both feet, in heading the ball? Are they tactically aware of how to play against W. Germany or Paraquay or Upper Volta?

In tennis, Borg never goes anywhere without coach Bergelin, great athletes, swimmers have their own individual mentors, but according to Thompson, English footballers are so gifted, so unique, that coaches might thwart their progress.

At the other end of the scale, commentators have attributed our inferiority to the W. Germans because of their advanced coaching system.

An 'Evening Standard' reporter in a November issue admiringly wrote about the Sportschool in Cologne, "where such celebrities as Schoen, Derwall and Herberger give lectures to the students."

As poor Sepp Herberger died at the age of 80 last May, his address must have had an ephemeral quality about it. Well, with Heaven on their side . . .

LESLIE VERNON

Gordon Jago, who resigned as manager of Millwall to return to America as manager of Tampa Bay Rowdies.

The renovated River Plate stadium in Buenos Aires where nine World Cup matches including the final will be played in June.

Buenos Aires —cosmopolitan, sprawling and . . . crowded!

BUENOS AIRES, the capital of Argentina, where 12 World Cup matches will be played during next year's finals — including the opening game on June 1 and the final on June 25 — is a sprawling, cosmopolitan city which visitors have often called the most European place in South America (writes ERIC WEIL).

It is sprawling because in spite of its 10 million inhabitants making it one of the largest cities in the world, it has relatively few skyscrapers and stretches out over a wide area along the banks of the River Plate. It is cosmopolitan because people from all over the world have come to make their homes here and, as a result, it is mostly a collection of several large and many smaller "foreign" communities.

The first indication of this are the number of newspapers printed here in foreign languages and it is confirmed by a look through the telephone directory and the names of numerous clubs and institutions.

This also makes Buenos Aires unique as far as the World Cup is concerned. Argentina may be a long way away for many fans of the 15 visiting finalists and not so many will be able to afford the trip as when the World Cup finals are held in Europe. Apart from that, Argentina's system of selling tickets abroad only in "packages" (including passage and hotel accommodation) and limiting these to 40,000 tourists due to a shortage of hotels, will also keep the number of visitors down. But on the other hand the finalists will find, to a greater or smaller extent, a ready made fan club waiting for them.

Boost

Italy and Spain, having reached the finals, will be helping to boost local ticket sales. The Spanish and Italian communities are predominant here and you will find few Argentines who are not descended from one or the other. The sizeable British community will be solidly behind the Scottish team and it will be similar with each of the finalists — even the last qualifier, Tunisia. In this respect visiting teams and fans will probably find themselves more at home here than they could have been in most towns outside their homeland.

Buenos Aires is a port and, as such, not too clean. Frequent government changes and the resultant shake-ups in its municipality as well as its fast growth, have hampered its progress and services (transport, telephones, etc, which have lagged behind other large cities) and it has not looked its best for some time.

Its actual centre, with most of the cinemas packed on one street, is relatively small and crowded as are its streets — although it possesses what is generally acknowledged as the widest avenue in the world, the 9 de Julio. Its mixture of modern and ancient architecture next to each other and the general lack of planning hurt the eye, as do its vast, unkept slum areas. There are feeble attempts to spruce it up in time for the World Cup, but not much is likely to be changed by then.

But back to the World Cup which will be held in early winter here and for Europeans it will be like Spring with the temperature between 10 and 18 degrees centigrade, perhaps colder at night but rarely reaching freezing point. It never snows, but the occasional high humidity could be uncomfortable for visitors.

Buenos Aires and its suburbs have any amount of soccer stadiums and sports clubs, big and small, but the World Cup organisers chose the River Plate Club's stadium — scene of many international matches in the past — and the newer Velez Sarsfield stadium as a reserve venue, although both needed improvements which are still being carried out.

River Plate's stadium, where nine matches including the opening game and the final will be played, lies on the banks of the River Plate among a row of sports clubs about half an hour's journey from the centre of town. It was open on the river side, but is being closed in to increase capacity to 72,000 (55,000 seated) for the World Cup. Its turf has been relaid and there are three new auxiliary fields next to it — one for training and the other two to provide turf to replace on the main field during the competition if necessary. Illumination is provided by a luminous ring around the stadium (as at Real de Madrid).

The teams have separate changing rooms at opposite ends of the stadium, complete with baths, gymnasium for warming up and first aid centre. The press has 1,700 individual desks (with phone and TV set if requested), 150 radio and TV cabins, a press centre with phones and telex, interviewing rooms, etc. Another press centre is being prepared in town at what is usually an exhibition and theatre complex. The Velez Sarsfield stadium, slightly further from the centre, will take 56,000 spectators (26,000 seated) with similar facilities.

When not watching matches, visitors will find that Buenos Aires has more night life than most places they know and that it is safer to wander about at night than in almost any large city today. They will find more than enough theatres, cinemas, one of the world's leading opera houses (the Colon), restaurants, night clubs, other sports events and entertainments to keep them fully occupied every day of their stay . . . and while Buenos Aires itself may not be much to look at, there are several interesting sights in the surrounding areas — such as the River Plate delta — but that, soccer wise, is another story.

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GREAT SURV

Pele, pictured playing for the Cosmos last season.

PAUL GARDNER reports from New York

FANS attending the game between the Cosmos and the Washington Diplomats last July 27 found a little white leaflet being pressed into their hands by the hundreds and hundreds of smartly uniformed ushers who populate Giants Stadium.

The leaflet contained 25 questions which the fan was asked to answer and then to return the form to the Cosmos. The Great Cosmos 1977 Fan Survey was under way. As I made my way to the press box, my path was littered with discarded forms, not too encouraging an omen, perhaps, but it seems that more than enough were duly filled in and faithfully returned. Accurately, one assumes. For Warner Educational Services, who conducted the questionnaire, have now issued the results. They have come up with a Profile of the Cosmos Soccer Fan.

The table printed here summarises some of the more important findings. It seems that the crowd is predominantly young, male, well-educated (if that is what attending college entails), and contains some 60 per cent of fans who either play or have played soccer. And for those people here (mostly old-time newspaper editors and other ne'er-do-wells) who still insist that soccer is an ethnic sport, it appears that 60 per cent of the fans are pure, home-bred, English-speaking, hot-dog chewing, soda-sipping Americans.

Well, now, without claiming any particular clairvoyance on my part, I should say that I feel this survey is pretty accurate . . . because its portrait of the crowd coincides with my personal impression, my *feel* of what the atmosphere is at a Cosmos game. On one point, in particular, I feel strongly vindicated.

Throughout the season I was regularly pointing out to NASL representatives, whenever any of them would listen to me (increasingly less often, as the season went on; one becomes a bore, I suppose) that their claim of 40 per cent to 48 per cent female attendance just could not be true at Cosmos games. I did my own little surveys, lurking about behind turnstiles counting fans as they came in, I surreptitiously counted along the rows that I could see from the press box. I listened to the *sound* of the crowd's roar. I never came up with a figure of more than 20 per cent females.

It was suggested to me, politely of course, that I could not count, that I perhaps could not tell the difference between a boy and a girl (in fact, looking down on heads from directly above in the press box, it is confoundedly difficult, you know) and that I was maybe conducting my surveys in the Men's Toilet, ha ha.

Well, the laugh is now on them, for the official, scientifically formulated and (I am quite sure) infallible Cosmos survey says that the percentage of females at that July 27 game was 24 per cent. So there.

But . . . immediately underneath that figure there appears a rather strange, apologetic little sentence: "The figures above are for a Wednesday night game with a 7 p.m. kick off. The estimate for day games is closer to a 60/40 male to female ratio." It is strange that this allowance for the difference between day and night games should appear only here.

After all, if the female presence is to be nearly doubled when daylight reigns, might that not have a substantial effect on the other totals — such as which newspapers are read, who actually plays the sport, age range and so on? Apparently it is only the 24 per cent female total that is unexpected enough to cause excuses to be made, I shall return to this in a moment.

You will see in the Table that 56 per cent of the fans attending drove their own car to the stadium. No surprise there — Giants Stadium was built on a sort of reclaimed swampish area, flat, desolate, quite hideous really, but with terrific accessibility (can that be the word?) for cars.

The stadium itself sits in the middle of acres and acres of dark grey, flat, concrete parking space. Just think, when the Cosmos sold the stadium out and the North American record crowd of 77,691 invaded the arena barely two weeks after the survey was taken, there must have been, how many cars?

Statistics

Well, 56 per cent of 77,691 — I make that about 43,500 cars, but doubts have been expressed about my mathematics before now, especially when I'm working on statistics. Getting out of a parking lot containing that many cars presents a few problems.

Whatever the reverse of accessibility is (de-accessibility?) it is not something that the architects of Giants stadium excel in. Still, it is all a vast improvement on the old stadium where the Cosmos languished for two years — Randalls Island; they had one sell-out there, for Pele's first league game, and it took over two hours for people to get their cars away from the vicinity of the stadium. They never sold out again.

There is another piece of information in the survey that intrigues me (I have not included it in the accompanying table). Fans were asked what they felt about the NASL 'shootout' method of resolving tied games. Lo and behold, only 22 per cent voted to keep it: 38 per cent said keep playing over-time until the winning goal is scored, 32 per cent said allow the game to end in a tie, and 66 per cent said find another method of breaking ties.

This is particularly interesting. For in this predominantly American audience, only 22 per cent are pleased with a radical departure from the generally accepted soccer rules, a change that was expressly designed (or so we were informed) to cater to the American taste for action and drama and all that sort of stuff. Even so, one retains some doubts about the validity of these answers.

How many of the people responding understand that the *intention* of the tie-breaker (whether it be the shootout or regular penalty kicks or corner kicks or whatever) is not to ensure that we get a winner at any price, but to try to ensure that we get two teams playing as though they both want to win, in short to avoid the monotony of anti-soccer.

For my own taste, I found the shoot-out bland and less exciting than regular penalty kicks. But the NASL owners, ever loath to draw attention to their errors by correcting them,

COSMOS FAN EY OF 1977

have decided that the shootout will continue to grace our soccer fields in 1978.

The more I think about this, the more I feel that the way to decide games that are tied at 90 minutes is to go back to the original idea of corner kicks. A soccer game should be a 90 minutes game. The winner should be declared on the basis of what happens during those 90 minutes. The trouble with the penalty kick/shootout routine is that they totally cancel out the 90 minutes-game, and re-commence with a little extra game that really has nothing to do with soccer-proper.

Corner kicks are a reflection of what happened during the 90 minutes. They are also a pretty accurate reflection of whether or not a team is doing much attacking; you cannot win corner kicks by defending stoutly for 90 minutes. Obviously, if corners are to be adopted, then we shall have to have a scoreboard that everyone, players, spectators and journalists alike can see, that records not only goals but corners as well.

To return to the Cosmos survey. Exactly what purpose does it serve? to what use can the various percentages and totals be put? If this were some other branch of show biz (I take it there will be no dissenters to the proposition that soccer is part of the entertainment world?) — say the theatre — then there would be a logical use for the survey.

You would be able to see very clearly exactly who was in your audience, you would then be able to tailor your programmes to give them what they want. The late Terence Rattigan had his imaginary audience figure, he called her Aunt Edna, very English, very middle class, rather genteel, and he wrote his plays for an audience of Aunt Ednas. He was, of course, spectacularly successful. He knew his audience, he tailored his entertainment accordingly.

But how would that apply in soccer. So we know the Cosmos audience is young and well-educated and American. Can we give them young, intelligent, American soccer? What on earth would that be anyway? No, rather obviously, these survey figures have little to do with providing the fans with the sort of soccer they want. If that was the intention, then perhaps we should have had questions like this:

Q: When a fullback gets the ball, would you rather see him (please tick one)

- ☐ belt it 40 yards up the field
- ☐ pass it back to the goalkeeper
- ☐ dribble forward and lose it
- ☐ dribble forward and shoot over the bar
- ☐ whack it into the stands
- ☐ try something constructive?

There were no questions like that because the survey is, frankly, much more linked to marketing than to soccer. It is designed to produce totals that look good to the big companies that are to be relied upon in the future to sponsor and bank-roll American soccer. All those people driving their own cars! All those college graduates! And — of course — all those women! Which explains why the survey people are so anxious to point out that there are really 40 per cent females in the soccer audience, and that the 24 per cent figure is an aberration brought on by playing under floodlights on a Wednesday night.

Nevertheless, the most intriguing answer in the questionnaire has to be under the responses to the "Do you play soccer?" question. It seems that 1 per cent answered "Don't know/No answer."

STATISTICAL PROFILE OF THE COSMOS FAN — 1977

Q AGE	
Under 20	25%
20-29	24
30-39	23
40 and over	28
Q SEX	
Male	76%
Female	24
Q PARTICIPATION IN SOCCER	
Play now	26%
Used to play	40
Never played	33
Don't know/No answer	1
Q ATTENDANCE AT COLLEGE	
Attend/attended college	53%
No college	46
No answer	1
Q NATIONAL BACKGROUND — BIRTHPLACE	
United States	60%
Italy	8
Germany	7
Great Britain	4
Other Europe	11
Latin America/Caribbean	7
Q OCCUPATION	
Professional/technical	21%
Managers/Officials/Proprietors	14
Clerical/Sales	12
Craftsmen/Foreman	1
Laborers	1
Wives/students/children	30
Others	13
Q VIEWING OF COSMOS AWAY GAMES ON TV	
Watch regularly	64%
Occasionally	31
Never	5
Q TRANSPORT TO THE STADIUM	
Drove own car	56%
Passenger in car	36
Bus	8
Q NO. OF GAMES ATTENDED	
One	18%
Two	9
Three	7
Four	8
Five	8
Six or more	49

Surprise victory by Tunisia

IN FOOTBALL, as in everything else, there is no real reason why the established order should remain unchallenged — as Egypt found to their cost in the World Cup qualifiers.

Having eliminated Ethiopia, Kenya and Zambia on their way to the final African group play-offs, they must have considered a place in Argentina almost theirs by right, because of their soccer history. It was, after all, far superior to that of Nigeria and Tunisia.

Yet it was Nigeria who first threatened to sail through to the Finals — drawing 0-0 away in Tunis, then thrashing the complacent Egyptians 4-0 in Lagos. Egypt promptly turned the tables by beating Nigeria 3-2 in Cairo, while Tunisia re-established their claim by winning 1-0 in Lagos, thanks to a tragic Nigerian own goal.

Suddenly everything was upside down. Now the Nigerians were out of contention, and everything rested on the last two games between Egypt and Tunisia.

It was the meeting of the offshoots of two different football cultures, for while the Egyptians first learned soccer from the English, it was the French who have always been the ruling influence on Tunisia.

In fact it was only in 1960 that Tunisia joined FIFA, the country not having gained any sort of independence until the mid-fifties. The FA's headquarters, incidentally, are in Lenin Street, Tunis.

The best-known clubs are Etoile de Sahel and Club Africain, whose star is veteran goalkeeper Sadoq Attouga, the 32-year-old captain of Tunisia. The players are all called amateurs, and the main stadium is the 50,000-capacity Olympic stadium which staged the final last summer of the first FIFA World Youth Cup, in which Russia beat Mexico on penalties after a 2-2 draw.

Tunisia's international record is comparatively meagre. No Tunisian club has ever won an African club cup, and Tunisia have never won the African Nations' Cup. They blew their best chance in 1965 when, despite being hosts, they went down 3-2 to Ghana in the final.

To get through to these World Cup play-offs they beat 1970 finalists Morocco 1-1, 1-1 and then 4-2 on penalties, then Algeria and Guinea.

Team manager is Majid Chetali, a star (forgive the pun) with Etoile and Tunisia in the mid-sixties. He took over in 1961. Goalkeeper Attouga is said to be the best in Africa, with midfielder Tarak Diab probably the best outfield player. Hezami Temim, a forward who plays of a club side in Saudi Arabia, is the most likely goalscorer, while another exile in the squad is forward Ali Manai, who plays for Chenois Geneva in the Swiss second division.

It is with this unlikely assortment of names new to the world soccer stage that Tunisia go to Argentina in the summer rather than Egypt.

Yet if history and past record were anything to go by, Tunisia would never have stood a chance. The Egyptian FA, for instance, was founded back in 1921, and they joined FIFA as early as 1923. Football is the most popular game is Egypt, and the biggest ground is the Nasser stadium in Cairo which holds 100,000 — 82,000 seated — and is often jam-packed for important club and international games.

Agrebi of Tunisia

The best clubs, hardly surprisingly, are based in Cairo, including National, Zamalek, and El Ahly — who are coached by Nandor Hidegkuti, centre forward with Hungary in those great days of the early 1950s, and the man who scored a hat-trick against England in that 6-3 win in 1953 at Wembley.

Hidegkuti is now in his second spell coaching in Egypt and though his concern is the club team, he has had a profound effect on soccer there through the El Ahly men in the national team.

Egypt's first international success was in 1924, when they reached the quarter finals of the Olympic tournament, beating Hungary 3-0 then going down 0-5 to Sweden. In 1928 they even reached the semi-finals, but lost 6-0 to Argentina, the team who would go on to finish runners-up in the 1930 World Cup.

After that 'Amateur' soccer slumped, and it wasnt until 1964 that Egypt re-emerged to lose 3-1 to Germany in the match for third place in the Olympics.

In the meantime they hadn't done so badly in the World Cup, on and off. Having first competed in 1934, losing 4-2 to Hungary in the first round of the finals in Italy, they were unlucky in 1954. Their qualifying rivals were Italy, and the Egyptians lost 2-1 at home, then 5-1 in a snowstorm in Milan — the first time many of their players had seen snow — despite holding on 1-1 at half-time.

Italy, who fielded the entire defence from Fiorentina, owed their success to a skilful performance from Giampiero Boniperti, now president of Juventus. He scored two goals and made another.

After that Egypt had never come so near the finals again. And, a bad omen, they were eliminated in the 1974 qualifiers by Tunisia!

In club competition Ismaili won the African Champions' Cup in 1969, while Egypt have done well in the Nations' Cup. They won the first competition, beating Ethiopia 4-0 in 1957, and retained it, beating Sudan 2-1, in 1959, when Egypt were hosts.

They were runners-up on 1961 — losing 4-2 to Ethiopia — and third in 1974. In 1976 they finished fourth and bottom of the final play-off group, losing to Morocco, Guinea, and Nigeria.

Team manager for the recent World Cup ties, has been Mohamed El Gendy, once a famous player with El Ahly and Zamalek, with his most consistent players being outside right Mustafa Abdou — who scored twice against Nigeria — centre forward Ali Khalal, and goalkeeper Ekrami.

For the first Egypt-Tunisia clash on November 25, teams were:

Egypt: Ekrami — Mohammed Saleh, Mustafa Younis, Maher Hammam Bader, Sami Mansour, Farouk Gaafar, Hassan Shehata, Saad Soleit, Mustafa Abdou, El Khatib, Ali Khalal.

Tunisia: Attouga — Mukhtar Zuweib, Omar El Habely, Kamal El Shebly, Aly El Kaaby — Tarak Diab, Nagib Kamis — El Eb-dy, Temim, Lemnay An Nagib Imam, Ben Aziza.

With a crowd estimated by some as 120,000, roaring Egypt on, they were 2-0 up at half-time and well in command. Farouk Gaafar scored the first from a penalty after 21 minutes, and 11 minutes later outside right Hassan Shehata hit a second.

The turning point came early in the second half, when Attouga bravely took the ball off the feet of an onrushing Egyptian forward. Had they scored, Egypt would have been 3-0 ahead. As it was, they relaxed, and nearly paid the penalty when Ben Aziza miscued a shot at the other end which struck both posts before being cleared by two defenders!

Solo goal

Still, he was on target in the 70th minute, beating Ekrami to pull the score back to 2-1. Khatib scored a fine solo goal to put Egypt two goals clear again, but with 10 minutes to go Aly El Kaaby made it 3-2.

That meant that the return, the final game of the African series, got under way in Tunis, with the Egyptians needing a draw to qualify for Argentina. For Tunisia a 1-0 win would be sufficient, since they had taken three points from three games, while Egypt had taken four.

Menegali was the referee in the El Menzah stadium in Tunis, and the teams:

Tunisia: Attouga — Zuweib, El Kaaby, Gasmi, Kamel El Shebly, Ghomich, Agrebi (Laabidi), Tarak, Temim, Akid, Limam (Ben Aziza).

Egypt: Ekrami (Thabet) — Abdel Bakhi, Mansour, Bader, Younis, Shehata, Abdou (Khalal), Shenka, Soleit, El Khatib, Mohktar Ali.

This time, just as Egypt had threatened to run away with the Cairo game, so Tunisia took over from the start. But, the difference this time was that the Tunisians never sat back. They kept going from start to finish, ran the Egyptians ragged, and won deservedly 4-1 to earn their place as the last team to qualify for Argentina.

Akid hit the first after 15 minutes, and Temim the second three minutes before half-time. It was a vital time to score, and clearly demoralised the Egyptians. Ben Aziza grabbed the third after 65 minutes and the other substitute, Laabidi the last in the 75th after a brilliant run by Tarak.

Egypt's consolation was scored in the 80th minute by Mohktar Ali. But what sort of consolation was it, when it was Tunisia, and not the Egyptians, going on to Argentina?

by BRIAN GLANVILLE

GREENWOOD NOT TOO OLD FOR THE JOB

RON GREENWOOD was not an inspired choice as England's new team manager, but he was, in all the circumstances, a good one. Moreover, the terms of the appointment are such that I think we shall see a more flexible system that we have ever had before. I still think the whole idea of a permanent team manager is nonsense, one more example of Parkinson's Law, whereby work expands to fill the time allotted to it. Don Revie thought he was working like mad when a more objective observer would have called it busy idleness; and even then he didn't find time to attend such apparently mandatory occasions as the senior coaches' session at Loughborough last year, or the UEFA coaches session at Bisham Abbey, last summer.

People have mused on the subject of Greenwood's age, yet he is only in his early fifties where Hungary's Lajos Baroti is already 63, and apparently none the worse for that. More preoccupying in the case of Greenwood has been the fact that for some years he seemed morally and psychologically grown grey in the service, badly disillusioned with football as he found it.

To give up the team managership of West Ham United, though he clearly remained the commanding figure, was ample testimony of that. It is to be hoped that he has found new life in his new job. Some evidence of this was given when for the match against Italy he finally picked a team which reflected his own beliefs, rather than the ridiculous, Liverpool-based teams he chose so unsuccessfully for the first two matches under his regime.

The new system is more flexible, first in so far as Greenwood can and will call up coaches to work under him. League managers who can take time off from their clubs to help him prepare his England teams, secondly because there is a "cut off" in the contract. If, that is to say, Greenwood fails to do well in the European Championship, he can be replaced shortly after its finals take place in July, 1980. That doesn't give his successor long to work on a World Cup qualifying team, but at least it means we are unlikely to find ourselves in the sad situation we were with Alf Ramsey and Don Revie, each of whom stayed in office long after it had become clear that his hour had struck.

Greenwood's enormous knowledge of foreign football and his ability as a coach will both stand him in excellent stead. Whether or not he can galvanise the England team is perhaps another matter, even a secondary one. As I have had occasion to remark before, it is as important to avoid a bad manager as to have a good one. Revie was in the event a very bad one. Not only did he compulsively fiddle with his teams and tactics, he also imbued those teams with his own anxiety and fear. That will not happen with Greenwood. Besides, the continued success of managers like Helmut Schoen suggests that the race is not always to the most dynamic.

The Germans still haven't really forgiven Schoen for not being his mentor and predecessor, the commanding Herberger. "Is this the face of a leader?" jeered a television technician during the last World Cup as I sat in a Wiesbaden studio watching West Germany play Sweden.

Poor Schoen had just lost his poodle, Germany were losing too, and he sat wretched in the rain beneath his unbecoming rain hat. But Germany recovered to win that game, and Schoen went on to win the World Cup.

Ally MacLeod, Scotland's engaging manager, doesn't think he will win it again. He fancies Hungary, though he hasn't actually seen them play. This was especially interesting to me as I visited Budapest in December, talked to Lajos Baroti, saw Ujpest play, and had a conversation with both Andreas Totoscik, the new rising star, and the veteran Fazekas.

None of these seem to think that the Hungarians will do much better than reach the last eight. This may have a tinge of superstition to it. Meanwhile it was hard to gainsay them when they said that they were already delighted with their achievement of putting out Russia.

Well might they be. The Russians have had an Indian sign on Hungarian football for years. In the 1966 World Cup, after Hungary had brilliantly defeated Brazil at Everton, they collapsed in the quarter finals to a far less gifted Russian team, goalkeeping errors playing a substantial part.

Toroscik, 22 years old, a blond centre-forward with splendid balance, delightful ball control and huge initiative, told me in Budapest that while he admitted goalkeeping errors had ham-strung the Hungarian team in the past, he felt it would not do so in the World Cup, since the team had not only one good goalkeeper now but two.

Victory over Russia is especially dear to the hearts of satellite nations such as the Czechs and the Hungarians who, whatever the rancid propaganda poured out at official level, cherish a healthy hatred for the imperial power. Russia, let it be remembered, also eliminated the Czechs from the semi-finals of the 1972 European Championship in Brussels, in a game of unexampled dimness, ludicrously ill attended. The Belgians preferred to watch their own team going down to the West Germans in Antwerp, on television.

Back to Fazekas and Toroscik. Fazekas off the field scarcely cuts the figure of a veteran international player with seventy caps, an outside-right who can play as a striker or a deep lying midfield man. He has a bushy blond moustache, wears an eccentric woollen cap on his head. The bonnet of his car is festooned with lights and badges. But he talks seriously and modestly, paying great tribute to the present Hungarian soccer regime, deploring those days, not so long ago, when people intervened who had no knowledge at all of football.

Let me confess that I have mixed feelings about the reigning Hungarian authorities. Certainly they have done a fine job; as Baroti, too, is eager to assert. But the partnership of Kotas and Zsolt, two Istvans, has not won the hearts of everybody. Kotas, an authoritarian figure, was in charge of the Hungarian Olympic team but made enemies with his draconian ways.

Zsolt is a figure familiar to readers of WORLD SOCCER. He it was who made that mysterious appearance in Liege some five and a half years ago on the occasion of the European Cup tie between Standard and Inter, generously offered to fill in the Hungarian referee's report, and mysteriously forgot to enter the fact that Bedin had been cautioned, thereby rendering himself liable to suspension.

Stronger

Zsolt is by no means my favourite person — I could use still stronger words — but to give the devil his due, he seems to have done an excellent job with the Hungarian referees, getting them much fitter, now that they are obliged to train twice a week, and inculcating a firmness which is estimated to have put an astonishing eighteen minutes on the length of the average League game.

One poaches, here, on Leslie Vernon's territory, but he'll forgive me if I say that I think Toroscik will, if decent refereeing allows him sufficient protection, become a salient figure in Argentina. He has twice been to South America before, disliked the close marking and harsh tackling from behind, but hopes and assumes the refereeing will be far better in the World Cup. I, in turn, hope he is right but am less convinced.

Toroscik and another Hungarian star, the attacking midfielder Nyilasi, of Ferencvaros, have been playing together, Toroscik told me, since they were in the Hungarian youth team. They have, he says, an instinctive understanding. Baroti is worried about Nyilasi's tendency towards being injured and fears that the two years of competitive football he has thus missed may count against him in Argentina. But the Hungarians seem likely to play a distinguished role.

News from West Germany by Arthur Rotmil

WEST GERMANY'S 1-1 draw with Wales at Dortmund was disappointing, but national team manager Helmut Schön is not losing any sleep over it. One can dismiss exaggerated stories of "dramatic changes" and of "unsettled German team" as pure sensationalism. After all, the same (British) writers have been singing loudly the praises of the German side after their 2-1 win over Italy in October. Since then they have beaten Switzerland convincingly by 4-1 and now just because they drew with Wales the Germans are suddenly in a panic?

Nonsense, and it will be seen in the next international against England in Munich, on February 22, that only those still unresolved positions of one midfield player and left winger might be filled with different men — just as I predicted in last month's issue of WORLD SOCCER.

Against Wales in Dortmund Herr Schön was going to try the wing forward Rudi Seliger (MSV Duisburg) again, but he cried off at the last minute with an injury. The Germans lacked their usual drive and punch up front and perhaps they underestimated the opposition, who had not scored a goal in their last four internationals.

It must also be said that Wales were only sporadically in the game and had just two chances, one of which their stopper (!) Dave Jones unexpectedly converted, thus equalising Klaus Fischer's goal — his 11th in nine internationals!

Wales did play better than they themselves could have hoped for at least in defence.

What made this encounter of special

Sepp Maier in familiar action for West Germany. But for a different look at the famous Maier turn to page 43.

Lorent in charge of

NOT even a professional fiction writer could have dreamed up such an incredible spectacle as that provided by two of West Germany's most famous and respected soccer clubs. Bayern Munich, still the reigning "world club champions" and Eintracht Frankfurt have exchanged managers! What made this farcical turn about even more grotesque was the fact that it all happened between the two legs of their UEFA-Cup 3rd Round tie.

So there was the former Hungarian international stopper Gyula Lorant, who led Eintracht to a 4-0 triumph in the home tie, switching suddenly to the conquered Bayern whose coach Dettmar Cramer left in the opposite direction! Since Eintracht won the return in Munich by 2-1, Lorant in effect took over a club eliminated (with his help) from their last European competition. The beaten Cramer, on the other hand, advanced with the Frankfurters into the quarter-finals. . . .

I must add, however, that it wasn't such a straight swap as some colleagues, far removed from the scene, would have us believe. Matters have been coming to a head at Bayern for some time, but why should Lorant want to take over a seemingly sinking ship, was to all and sundry at first inexplicable. But the upheaval didn't settle just there.

Eintracht's players, led by their captain the famous World Cup star Jürgen Grabowski were furious, for Lorant had done a fine job in Frankfurt since taking over midway through last season when the club was struggling in 16th place — under Lorant Eintracht played 21 games without defeat and finished 4th!

Resolved

Grabowski even went as far as to say that he and the players would not accept Cramer. In fact "Grabi", as he is affectionately called, took on the role of coach himself, until the question of management by Cramer was resolved by the board after several tense days of negotiations.

Meanwhile Bayern were jubilant because in Germany the old proverb that "new brooms sweep clean" is widely applied in football and the management, above all president Wilhelm Neudecker, had had enough of "professor" Cramer's theories, while in practice the team was stumbling from bad to worse.

Bayern wanted to "promote" Cramer to the rank of a Technical Director, but he wasn't too keen on the idea — it must have sounded to him like an upstairs office job, or was it because of his contract, scheduled till 1981, which had to be compensated for? Eventually, Bayern gave Cramer a parting gift of £31,000 in lieu of his remaining terms of contract and welcomed Lorant with open arms.

The tough Hungarian immediately made sweeping changes: Kapellmann was switched from midfield to full back, stopper Schwarzenbeck became a libero, the young Augenthaler was turned into a central defender and Rausch moved into midfield.

NO PANIC BY SCHÖN

interest was the pairing of Wales and West Germany, together with Malta and Turkey in the European Championship qualifying group. Early optimism about the easy draw was dampened only slightly after the Dortmund draw, but certainly not extinguished. I would not put any money on Wales winning this group.

Germany's test against England will be of even greater significance (for the immediate future) for it is obvious that following their exit from the World Cup and under new management; the English will want to show that their form against Italy in that 2-0 win, was no fluke.

Tactician

Of course, one should realise that if Italy did not have the World Cup group virtually sewn up when they came to Wembley and if their manager Enzo Bearzot had not proved himself a poor tactician (asking that particular team geared to attack to play catenaccio), it might have been a different story.

But it will be seen in Munich if England are as good as some of their admirers have hastily pronounced them on the strength of one win, against a World Cup qualifier. The Germans now realise that the period of experiments is over. After the England game they have just three internationals left: v. Russia (March 8 in Frankfurt), v. Brazil (April 5 in Hamburg) and v. Sweden (April 19 away), in which to finalise the team for Argentina.

After some marvellous displays for champions Borussia Mönchengladbach, the experienced striker Jupp Heynckes is being lauded again as a candidate for the left wing berth, but whether Helmut Schön will risk Heynckes who at 32 has only just regained full fitness, is at least debatable.

Efforts are still being made to bring back Franz Beckenbauer, not only to the national side but to German club football. 1860 Munich, for whom he wanted to play as a school boy, tried hard to get his release, but failed on the red tape which is clogging player movements during the season in West Germany.

There is an official "Transfer List" issued by the Football Federation and only players entered on that list can be considered when wishing to change clubs. Since Beckenbauer has not been registered on that list the DFB could not recognise his application for a move to Munich, where he intended to play till April — when the season starts in the USA.

As far as the national team is concerned, it is thought that the DFB may not want to pay the reported £250,000 New York Cosmos are supposedly asking for compensation for Beckenbauer missing 19 matches in the North American League.

Kevin Keegan's future in Hamburg is still shrouded in mystery. Rumours that the club are in financial difficulties and would be willing to part with the expensive Englishman (his salary is £90,000 a year), are given little credence, yet there is no denying that the managerial upheavals within the Hamburg SV have had their roots in the engagement of the England forward who has so far failed to justify the enormous fee of £500,000, which no German club had ever paid for a player who, let's face it, is not in the class of a Cruyff, or Beckenbauer, or even Grabowski, who can take charge of a team and take a game into full control.

Hamburg — who have now appointed Gunther Netzer as manager — can surely not be in financial trouble, after all they have reported a turnover for last season of over £2½ million and their clear profit was some £400,000. That 0-6 defeat in the second leg of the Super Cup at Liverpool put an end to their international ambitions for this year. But under their Turkish-born coach and former 'keeper Arkoc Oezcan, the Hamburgers have been putting together some encouraging performances in the *Bundesliga* and should get a better response from their recently disillusioned fans in the New Year.

Leading goalscorers: Dieter Müller (Cologne) 18; Gerd Müller (Bayern) 17; Burgsmüller (Bor. Dortmund), Fischer (Schalke) and Simonsen (Bor. MG) all 11.

F Bayern

Instead of man-for-man marking Lorant ordered space cover. And hey presto. Bayern won the first match under Lorant against Kaiserslautern by 4-2. Then followed a 2-0 win over VfB Stuttgart and 0-0 at St. Pauli. And suddenly the relegation candidates had moved up to a more respectable 13th place, in the table.

Meantime at Frankfurt the players realised their responsibility and agreed to work with Cramer. Incredibly, despite Bayern's dreadful slump this did not have any appreciable effect on their gates. Bayern could still boast an average crowd of 42,500 in the *Bundesliga* (third best after Stuttgart and Schalke), and the arrival of a new manager with his early successes promises a further increase in attendance figures.

Gates in the Bundesliga have rocketed this season to new heights anyway. The first half of the programme was watched by a total of 4,413,526 (average 28,846 per match) — the best aggregate attendances ever! This was 300,000 more than last year, when new records were established.

Dietz of West Germany.

News from France by Andre Duclos

WELL DONE BASTIA

THE excitement of Argentina, the continuing remarkable UEFA Cup success of Bastia, the lively equality of the First Division, all keep football briskly on the boil in France just now.

The irony of it is that no one much goes to watch Bastia in Corsica despite their success. Four days after their quite superb victory in Turin over Torino, when they made light of some very spiteful tackling — if that is the word — by the Italian team, a mere 4,375 spectators turned up to see them defeat Nancy by the only goal of the match — scored by the dashing Calude Papi. The arrival of Johnny Rep from Valencia has made light of the departures of last season's wingers, Dragan Dzajic and Zimako, while goals are now coming from such as the coloured striker Krimau — otherwise Abdelkrim.

He celebrated the appearance of his full name on the scoreboard at Turin by scoring two splendid goals. Afterwards, he was generous in his praise of the Torino and Italy striker, Francesco Graziani. Before the kick-off of the Bastia-Nancy game, the loudspeakers announced that the supporters' club had arranged of all things a pilgrimage to the shrine of Lavasina, some five miles away, to give thanks for the victory in Turin!

The dazzling succession of UEFA Cup victories this season by little Bastia — Sporting Lisbon, Newcastle and now Torino have all fallen — has much to do with a change of attitude. "Fanfan" Felix, their skipper, scorer of all three goals in the spectacular 3-2 win against Sporting after twice being behind, said at the time that the essential thing was "to believe". For fifty minutes, that night, Bastia had not believed in themselves, and thus had fallen two goals behind. But then Bastia had taken wing and the Portuguese, for all their vast experience in Europe, had been devastated.

Special bouquet

Claude Papi in his turn talks of "esprit de corps" and strength of will in Turin, giving a special bouquet to a newcomer, the little De Zerbi, who he felt was inspired, like others, by being plunged in at the deep end of European football. "Nobody knew him and yet in a month and a half here he is driving the English and Italian defenders crazy.

Olympique Marseille slip now and then, as they did at Laval, who beat them 2-1 in December after falling a goal behind, but the team that Skoblar built continues to play a substantial role in the Championship. It isn't, let it be said at once, a typical Marseille team, not a bit like the sort of side in which Skoblar himself played, scoring his amazing forty odd goals. It is less brilliant, but at the same time much more solid and consistent. Much is owed to the excellent, intelligent play of the Swedish international midfielder, Anders Linderoth, while the return to form of Bracci, at left-back, Bedoll, at centre-forward, makes them candidates for the French World Cup team.

Tresor of France gives the victory salute after his country had qualified for the World Cup Finals.

Saint Etienne cannot be entirely discounted, though they do still plainly miss Larqué, and their close season purchases haven't really worked out well. The veteran Hervé Revelli has forced his way back into the team and has indeed been one of their best, most influential, forwards. Nice, who set a hectic pace at the beginning, and have a Jean-Marc Guillou right back in form and in the French national team, are not invincible, as such matches as a 2-0 defeat at Metz made plain.

They went down badly and feebly that day to a Metz team which could not have been expecting so easy a victory, and by and large seem to lack the consistency essential for a Championship side, despite their many stars — not only Guillou but Katalinski, Jouve, Huck and the lively Yugoslav centre-forward, Bjekovic.

Effective season

Having a typically solid and effective season is Max Bossis of Nantes, the quiet man of the French international defence, remarkably mature and composed for a 22-year-old. Left-back or stopper, eight times capped for France, winner of a Championship medal last season, he is praised by the national team's manager, Michel Hidalgo, as "serious, conscientious, determined."

Hidalgo liked him from the moment he saw him as a junior, a year too young to play in the UEFA tournament, telling himself, he says, that in four or five years he would be in the full international team. "I tell him something and I look at him," Hidalgo says. "That's enough. His face, cold in appearance, is very expressive. Above all when he smiles. One must respect the quiet life that he has chosen . . . There's a certain purity about him."

They say that he wouldn't harm a fly; a characteristic that can sometimes work against a defender. "Glory is secondary for me," he says. "I don't attach much real importance to being a star. It doesn't add anything to my happiness." He made his debut in September 1973 against the powerful Saint Etienne. The following season, still only nineteen, he was a regular member of the Nantes defence. "Who'll remember me in twenty years? he asks, philosophically. I'll just have my memories, and that's fine. I'll probably have a few regrets. I shan't be unhappy. Less unhappy than other. I can get great satisfaction out of doing other things."

The tallest player in French football, he impresses not only for his defensive capacity but with his ball control. He can dribble like a winger, an attribute he puts down to his days as a midfield player. Endless juggling with a football in boyhood probably, however, has most to do with it. A player to watch, to admire, and to respect.

One manager who welcomes the seasonal break, the suspension of the League, was Jean Vincent of Nantes. The old French international left winger attributes his team's lack of punch and success to the plethora of matches they had to play in League and European Cup. But he insists that they still have a good chance of the Championship, which they won last season. Such injured players as the immensely gifted Sahnoun and Osman will both, he thinks, be back in full flight, after their absence through injury.

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Chetali, coach of Tunisia, and some happy fans after his country had qualified for Argentina.

WORLD CUP DRAW

●Continued from page 3

Mendoza and Cordoba to keep attendances up and interest going.

But they had reckoned without Dutch pride. Holland were dismayed at the thought that Italy might be seeded ahead of them and, in the 10 days up to the vital organising committee meeting, staged a war of words in the corridors of power at FIFA headquarters and in Buenos Aires' major hotels to persuade the organisers to give them the vote.

Their lobby was so successful that eventually the Italians agreed to backdown and, not wanting to face Holland in the first round, or Brazil or West Germany, requested a place in group one along with hosts Argentina — believing that, as in the past, they might then benefit from the hosts' usual good luck in a comparatively weak group.

As it turned out group one is perhaps the toughest any World Cup draw has provided.

The Italians expected to face Sweden and Tunisia. Instead they — and hapless Argentina — face Europe's two most dangerous revived nations in France and Hungary.

Still, on the Thursday before the draw the Italians weren't to know that. Instead it was everyone else who was growing more concerned about whether they would face the Germans or Brazilians. The Italians had side-stepped that and, it seemed, would benefit hugely.

The organising committee had to approve the other draw arrangements. This was complicated by the fact that only two countries — Iran and Tunisia — could be counted as weak, and also the need to keep Peru and Mexico not only apart from each other, but separate from Argentina and Brazil to provide South American interest in each group. Looking back, it might have been expedient to have matched Peru and Mexico alongside Iran and Tunisia in the pre-draw weak section, but perhaps that would have been too rash a decision politically, bearing in mind that the World Cup is taking place in South America.

So . . . it was decided that, having placed Italy in group one, the second place in each of the other groups should be drawn between Scotland, Spain and Poland. Mexico and Peru would be placed in groups two and four, Hungary and Sweden would be the alternatives for groups one and three. That left — ridiculously — Austria and France in the same class as Iran and Tunisia.

The Austrians knew already they might be placed in this way, had made quietly-voiced protests beforehand — not that it did much good. But this wasn't the only problem. Brazil, for example, after having agreed with FIFA that they would be drawn into the Mar del Plata group three, decided a few months back they didn't really want to go there after all.

They feared the climate, on the Atlantic coast, would not suit their players and playing style. The fact remained however that Mar del Plata, Argentina's foremost seaside resort, was the only place with accommodation enough to provide for their huge number of fans. So they had to put up with it.

That was as nothing against the problems the Argentines were running up against, both in their organisation and in their team plans.

Fears that the host nation would lose a staggering £400 million on the Finals, even if all tickets were sold, were increased by the news that ticket sales were going very slowly, and that comparatively few fans were expected from Europe because, once again, of the block holidays system which the Argentine tourist authorities had forced on most countries because of the lack of adequate hotel facilities.

Local team manager Cesar Menotti also had problems of his own. He is negotiating for the release of foreign-based Mario Kempes (Valencia), Quique Wolff (Real Madrid) and Osvaldo Piazza (Saint-Etienne), but while he wanted Wolff and Piazza home in February or March this was clearly impossible.

Menotti — once again hounded by rumours that Jean Carlos Lorenzo would replace him just before the Finals — had been accused of being inconsistent in being prepared to wait longer for Kempes to arrive. But, as he pointed out, Kempes hadn't been so long away from home as the other two, and the defenders would need more time to adjust than the big centre-forward who had already played for Menotti for Argentina.

Be that as it may, the Argentines remained reasonably optimistic that on organisation, security and playing ability, they would put up a useful show. Until, that is, young Master Havelange in his Little Lord Fauntleroy suit took a hand.

FIFA's organising committee felt they had done virtually everything to make sure the draw would work out sensibly, and support denials by Havelange and general secretary Helmut Kaeser that the whole thing had been 'fixed'. They were both wrong on the first point and partly right on the second.

Group one: Argentina, Italy, Hungary, France.

The most unpleasantly sensitive of all. Who — remembering Chile's Battle of Santiago with Italy in 1962 — can feel anything but sympathy for the poor referee who handles Argentina-Italy? And adding drama to the situation is the fact that the match will be one of the last pair in the group and could decide whether Argentina go out of the World Cup so early.

Neither side were pleased. And nor were France or Hungary. Both reckoned they deserved a better fate than this, for group one is the toughest of all.

Argentina and Italy must be slight favourites, but with the Argentines an unpredictable side and the Italians always liable to fall prey to their own internal bickerings, it wouldn't be too surprising if France and Hungary went through. Goal difference could be very important here, and if that favours anyone, it could be Hungary with their lively young forwards.

Group two: West Germany, Poland, Mexico, Tunisia.

West Germany open their defence of the world crown against Poland on June 1 in the River Plate stadium and if the traditional result follows — a 0-0 draw as in 1966, 1970 and 1974 — both teams will then be free to concentrate on running up the goals against Mexico and Tunisia.

Mexico are experienced Finalists, though they've never done very well, their best year being 1970 when they reached the quarter finals on their own stage. As for Tunisia, Finalists for the first time, they appear inferior to Iran and the weakest team of the 16. Their experience against top-class opposition is so limited as to be virtually nil, and it's hard not to feel that they could be in for a Zaire-type thrashing from someone.

Group three: Brazil, Spain, Sweden, Austria.

An evenly-balanced group, with all the possibilities of group one, but without quite the same explosive possibilities! Brazil, three-times winners and playing home from home are favourites, but anyone could go with them.

Spain may provide a more secure challenge than in the past under the long-tried control of Ladislao Kubala, while Austria showed signs of a renaissance in ousting the ageing East Germans in the qualifiers without losing a game.

Then, of course, don't rule out Sweden. They are always well-balanced, not just as a team, but as a group of men going out to do their best in a difficult situation.

They were worthy second-round qualifiers in 1974 and could prove so again.

● Continued on page 29

WHERE THE MONEY LIES!

report by ARTHUR ROTMIL

IN the fiercely competitive world of professional football the smaller countries with limited resources (low population, no. of clubs/players and finances), will always be overshadowed by the giants. Occasionally clubs and national teams from little lands manage to upset one of the highly rated favourites, but in the long run the minnows are doomed to play second fiddle to the big brother.

Soccer fans in small countries, like Austria and Switzerland, for instance, would like their teams to compete on equal terms with West German clubs, but the differences are so startling that any comparison must of necessity be unfavourable to the upstarts.

Yet, even in the West German Bundesliga, often presented as a model and regarded by many as the best League in the world, not every club is rich, not every team is excessively popular and not every one of them is financially solvent. The discrepancies start with the sales of season tickets. Hertha Berlin who use the modernised Olympic stadium with its 76,000 capacity, have sold just £25,000 worth of seasons, while Borussia Dortmund, whose ground holds 54,000 collected £640,000 from their advance sales!

When it comes to calculating the minimum gates necessary for clubs to pay their way, then newly promoted St. Pauli (Hamburg), for instance, need only 16,000, but Schalke require 36,000 to break even! The admission charges into grounds like in Duisburg-Wedau (cap. 33,000) and Berlin (76,000) vary from £2 to £6, but at Gelsenkirchen (Schalke) admission is £1.50, whilst the dearest seats are at £7.50, charged in Frankfurt, Berlin and Saarbrucken.

Local friendly

Attendances too, are quite disproportionate. Hamburger SV drew to two pre-season friendlies (against Barcelona and Liverpool) 100,000 fans who paid a total of £418,000 at the gate! A local friendly between 1860 Munich and Bayern brought a crowd of 70,000 to the Olympic stadium leaving £200,000 in the cash till . . . In Switzerland for example, only one club, FC Zurich, took so much money in the whole season! There, a tournament featuring four leading clubs in the country produced an attendance of 7,000.

Even more startling are the figures for advertising and sponsorship. Only four West German clubs from the I.Bundesliga do not wear ads on their jerseys: Schalke, Eintracht Frankfurt, Cologne and Hertha. The takings from this source also show enormous variations. Just £21,000 is pocketed by Borussia Dortmund, but Borussia Monchengladbach collect annually £175,000. In the list of sponsorship next in line are Keegan's club Hamburger SV. Here is the full line-up of clubs wearing the name of their "benefactors":

Borussia Monchengladbach (Erdgas-Heizung — gas heating firm)	£175,000
Hamburger SV (Hitachi — Japanese electronics TV, Radios, etc)	£125,000
Eintracht Brunswick (Jagermeister — a brand of liquor)	£100,000
Bayern Munich (Adidas — sports equipment)	£ 87,500
Werder Bremen (Norda — fish products)	£ 87,500
Fortuna Dusseldorf (ARAG — Insurance Co.)	£ 87,500
St. Pauli (Minolta — Japanese optical goods)	£ 62,500
VfL Bochum (Osborne — Spanish brandy)	£ 62,500
Kaiserslautern (Campari — Italian aperitif)	£ 50,000
Saarbrücken (Jagermeister — liquor)	£ 45,000
1860 Munich (Frucade — lemonade)	£ 37,500
VfB Stuttgart (Frottesana — Textile products)	£ 25,000
Borussia Dortmund (Samson — Dutch delicacies	£ 21,000

Another aspect of finance concerns the bonuses. Here too, the differences are staggering. Some clubs pay £250 per point — others only £75. Certain clubs make a distinction between an away point gained (£250) and a home point (£125), these being the highest rewards for points.

Some German clubs prefer to pay the players according to the spectator figures (Schalke have this special system thought to be unique in football). Others are participating in the percentage of gates (VfB Stuttgart, who are causing great envy with their average gates of 58,500!)

There are also clubs who base their bonus on the League position, in other words on the level of performance. This is reckoned to be the pattern for the future — if clubs want to survive economically then they can only afford to pay their players out of their takings at the gate. Good attendances will mean good wages.

But the basic salaries paid by the *Bundesliga* clubs remain a closely guarded secret. On the other side the remunerations paid to the managers/coaches are disclosed freely. Udo Lattek (Borussia Monchengladbach) and Hennes Weisweiler (Cologne) each earn £60,000 a year! Three other club chiefs collect £48,000 p.a., one man gets £42,000 and three coaches £30,000, whilst six managers earn just £24,000 a year, as the lowest paid!

By comparison in England the highest paid man is reputedly Ron Saunders (Aston Villa) who gets £35,000 p.a. But it is significant that in West Germany the top players earn more than the best managers! This is not the case in England and that is perhaps why so many leading players want to go abroad.

Ron Saunders, manager of English first division side Aston Villa.

PLATINI FRANCE

Player portrait

by

Keir Radnedge

MICHEL PLATINI happily admits that the first time he became seriously aware of the World Cup was in 1966.

He remembers watching England play West Germany in the final on television, as he sat at home in the little French town of Joeuf. He remembers, too, being impressed by Franz Beckenbauer and Bobby Charlton, and being pleased that he had decided to watch for once, rather than go out for yet another game in the streets with the kids from next door and round the corner.

I start, deliberately, at that point in Platini's childhood because a lot of people would say today somewhere along the line — although he never played against Charlton and only last Spring for the first time against Beckenbauer — that something of these two great players rubbed off on him.

Platini makes no secret of the fact that his greatest idol remains Pele. But the 11-year-old boy who watched the 1966 Final on television has all the makings of a player who will be displaying the grace and extreme class of the two Europeans, rather than the explosive virtuosity of the Brazilian.

Platini, the Nancy-Lorraine midfielder who is still only 22, carries the weight of acclaim as the best French footballer since Raymond Kopa. But, just as in the fifties no-one in France bothered to give Kopa's Polish background any credit, so today there's a wall of silence around the fact that a couple of generations back and Platini's family are Italian.

It's just a small point, but it goes to emphasise how gladly the French are greeting the renaissance of their football.

After years of decrying everything in French football and hailing almost everything from abroad — whether deserving or not — it seems the French have started to get their perspectives right again. And much of that is due to Platini, for the style and the goals he has provided to help lift the national team to the World Cup Finals for the first time in 12 years.

So, let's go back to the beginning.

Joeuf is a small town of about 15,000 inhabitants in north-east France, near Metz and not far either from the borders with Luxembourg and West Germany. It has here that Platini was born on June 21, 1955, and here that his father, Aldo Platini, guided his first steps on the way to becoming the biggest thing to hit French football for years.

Aldo was football-mad. Still is, in fact. He trained the local team in Joeuf in his spare time, and young Michel was learning the basics of the game as early as seven years old.

It often happens that sons who are pushed in a particular direction by ambitious parents rebel later in life. But still today, after playing at the highest levels, Michel Platini says: "My father remains the best trainer and coach for me."

Aldo was sensible about Platini's development once he realised his son possessed a remarkable talent. He protected him from the scouts of clubs who came from miles to watch his son and it was only when Platini was 17 that Aldo thought the time was right to let him join Nancy-Lorraine.

It was the start of a happy relationship for father and son. Aldo's wise head impressed Nancy so much that they took him on too — to look after their third division team and work in the club's coaching centre!

Nancy had returned to the first division in 1970 and though Platini joined in the summer of 1972 he was left to his own devices in the third division reserve team until May 3, 1973, when a number of injuries gave him the long-awaited first team debut. It was a home match against Nimes; Nancy won 2-1 to finish sixth in the table and Platini, though not scoring, had made himself noticed.

Exactly four months later he made his first appearance in the blue shirt of France, in a youth international against Rumania.

But Platini's career wasn't yet to take off for, in 1974, Nancy were relegated — finishing above Sedan and Paris but level on points with Troyes, Monaco and Bastia, and going down because of an inferior goal difference.

Youngster

Platini had been in and out of the team. A struggling side was hardly the best place for a youngster trying to build up the self-confidence to settle in a team where he was very much the junior. But it was in the second division that he suddenly found the time in which to sort himself out and Nancy shot straight back up. They finished top of group A in the split second division with Platini hitting 17 of their 73 goals. Nancy had by far and away the best attack. Next best, Avignon, scored 57!

All this time Platini had been playing more games for the French youth team. He would play nine in all, then four for the under-21s, as well as half a dozen for the Olympic team. And his full debut for the senior side wasn't far away now.

In the 1975-76 first division campaign Platini confirmed all the hopes he had aroused the previous year. Nancy finished seventh in the table and Platini, with 22 goals in 31 games, was fourth in line in the list of top scorers. Before the season was out he was named for a friendly against Czechoslovakia.

Platini, who had hit his first important hat-trick a few weeks before against Marseille, might have wished for a more auspicious occasion in which to launch his international career. Although there were 19,000 fans in the Parc des Princes, some 10,000 were schoolboys who had been 'persuaded' into turning up by the promise of free admission.

(Interesting to compare this with the recent World Cup decider against Bulgaria, when thousands of ticket applications had to be rejected and many fans were turned away on the night because they didn't have tickets).

Michel Hidalgo was new to the job of national team manager, but the introduction of Platini was to prove the making of him. Gerard Soler put France ahead after 17 minutes, Karol Dobias equalised, then, eight minutes before half-time, France were awarded a direct free kick outside the penalty box. Platini curled it round the wall and into the top corner of the net past Ivo Viktor.

That wasn't all. Though the Czechs, soon to be crowned European champions, hit back to draw 2-2 Platini's all-round performance delighted the fans and excited officials. With the explosion at Saint-Etienne of Dominique Rocheteau the future suddenly appeared so much brighter.

Platini later explained that the reason he settled in so quickly and easily was that before the match his room-mate was the experienced Nantes skipper, Henri Michel, a veteran of more than 50 internationals.

"His attitude was just right," said Platini. "He didn't put on any sort of act just because he was the senior player. He made me feel I was an important a member of squad as he was and just kept encouraging me, both before the game and during it."

Platini was now entering a phase of his career which counts among the most testing any young player has had to endure.

Having played a full season for his club, having played for France at senior and under-21 level, for the French military team and also for the amateurs qualifying for the Olympic finals in Montreal, Platini also squeezed in a cartilage operation a couple of days after scoring a hat-trick in a Cup-tie, missed the April international against Poland, and was back for the friendly with Hungary.

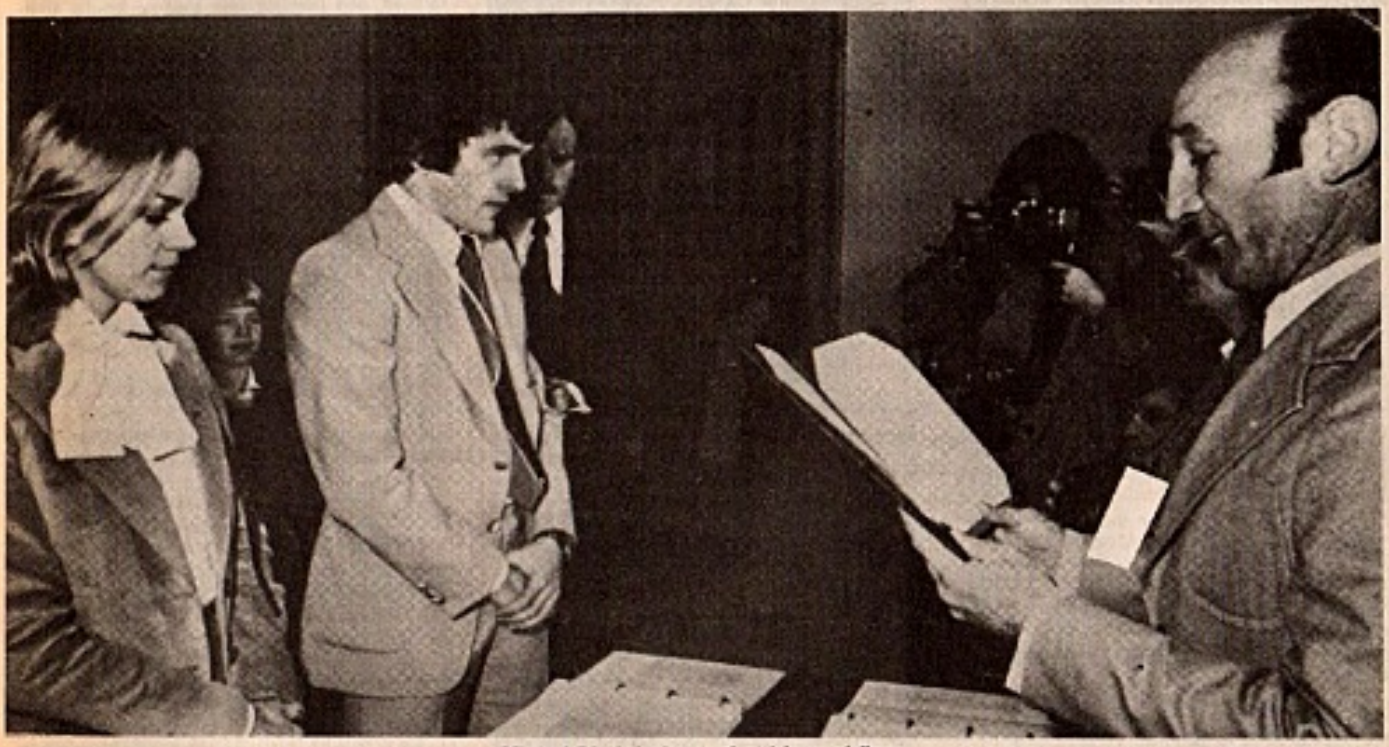
France lost 1-0, but Platini's confidence was too secure now to be affected by such minor setbacks.

Goal down

Nancy went through to the Cup semi-finals, only to lose 4-1 in unlucky circumstances to Marseille in the Parc des Princes. A goal down at half-time, Platini headed a superb equaliser on the hour, but his bravery meant a collision with Marius Trésor, Marseille's brilliant coloured defender, and concussion spelled the end of the match for him. Without his presence to provide composure and class in midfield, Nancy collapsed.

But the season was far from over, for now Platini was bound for Montreal. France had reached the Olympic finals from a group including Holland and Rumania. Their team included several young players who form part of Hidalgo's senior squad now — Platini, Bruno Baronchelli, Loic Amisse, and Platini's Nancy team-mate Olivier Rouyer.

—BEST FROM SINCE KOPA



Michel Platini pictured at his wedding shortly before Christmas last year.

How they count as amateurs is neither here nor there. They played, and France reached the quarter finals before going down 4-0 to eventual winners East Germany. Platini played in all four games — the three group matches against Mexico, Guatemala and Israel, and the ill-starred match against East Germany in which two of his midfield colleagues — Rubio and Fernandez — were sent off.

Platini didn't score in the 4-1 win over Mexico, but hit two in the repeat against Guatemala, and converted the late penalty which provided a 1-1 draw against Israel and a passport into the last eight.

His skill, class and potential was no longer in doubt. And if it was, any traces of criticism were allayed when he converted another free kick in the 2-2 World Cup draw in Bulgaria and a third in the 2-0 win over the Republic of Ireland in November 1976.

He goes from strength to strength. At the start of this season he became only the fourth player since the war to hit a hat-trick while playing for France, when he netted three — one with his head, one with his left foot, one with his right — in the 4-1 win over Hamburg. Then he was on target again in the 3-1 win over Bulgaria which assured a place in Argentina.

His free kicks continue to catch opponents out, too. In the 0-0 draw against Russia, another dead-ball effort ricocheted away off a post. So watch out for those Platini free kicks in Argentina!

What's the secret?

Platini puts it down to his games on waste land as a boy. "We would make the goals out of stones piled up with out coats. But I'd always put something colourful — like a scarf — there too, and when I had a chance to shoot I would aim for the bright colour. I think that's helped me now.

"When I take a free kick now the only things that concern me are the position of the goalkeeper . . . and the posts. I don't worry about the defensive wall at all. I know I needn't worry about getting the ball round them . . ."

Platini has two major ambitions — both extremely unlikely. One is to win the World Cup with France, the other to win the Champions' Cup with Nancy. He'll certainly be playing for France for many years, but whether he will stay with Nancy is another matter.

Valencia of Spain started talks with Nancy president Claude Curry when the French club played in Spain in a summer tournament. The £1 million price tag deterred them, but president Jose Ramos Costa and manager Pusieguito were at the Parc to watch Platini against Bulgaria.

Valencia know they face competition. Internazionale of Milan have requested an option to buy Platini should the Italians reopen the borders, and Paris Saint-Germain and Saint-Etienne both tried to prise Platini away during the summer.

Platini remains vaguely amused by all the fuss. After his match-winning display against Hamburg he joked: "I suppose I'll be reading now that Hamburg have offered Keegan and three other players in part-exchange."

If that gives you the idea Platini is getting a little too cocky with all the success, I can tell you he isn't. He regularly goes home to ask his father for advice, and his father reminds him to keep working on his left foot and his heading — which Platini regards as his weakest point.

It's only in the past year or two he has understood the power of the French soccer renaissance.

"I was 15 at the time of the Mexico World Cup," he said, "and 19 in 1974. I watched the Finals on television and liked what I saw, but I was always a bit upset because France wasn't there. I wondered where French football was heading. I remember the games between Italy and West Germany in 1970 and Holland and West Germany in 1974 and thinking then that all this must be beyond us.

"Then, all of a sudden, Saint-Etienne were going through to the European Cup Final, and I realised this was proof that we French can in fact compete on equal terms with anyone."

Platini certainly can. Helenio Herrera watched him recently, and thought Platini ideally suited for the same forward role as Pele, Mazzola, or Cruyff.

In a word," said Herrera, "he's super-class."

REVIEW OF

ERIC BATTY looks back on the international matches of last year

AS ALWAYS, figures alone can be misleading, and 1977 was no exception. Portugal occupy a very high position having played only four games, but in the past, four was always my minimum qualification so I have let them in.

Had they played more games however, particularly against good opposition, away from home, I feel they would have slipped down to around 12th or so.

Iran and Mexico are also unworthy of their high position and in both cases this is due to the fact that they played a large number of World Cup qualifying matches against countries from their own immediate geographical zone where the opposition is at best, moderate. Iran did visit Argentina and managed a 0-0 draw but they no doubt played very defensively. Otherwise, their opponents were generally the likes of Hong Kong, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, etc.

Mexico benefited (and probably qualified for the World Cup) because the final tournament was played in Mexico. Thus a very high proportion of Mexico's games were at home, which gives her another unfair advantage.

The Mexicans played only one game against proven quality opposition — drawing 2-2 but again at home, to West Germany. But this was the last of the Germans games on tour, and Helmut Schon gave a game to a few reserves who had only sat on the substitutes bench in the games against Argentina and Brazil.

Yet another team placed too highly is Austria, who were pretty grim when I saw them in 1977. They had one big win by 9-0 at home to Malta of all people and taking those goals away from their total, it leaves Austria with a goals record of 8 for and 7 against, which in my view is about right.

Another quide to the Austrian strength lies in the fact that they had to struggle to beat Turkey 1-0 in Vienna.

My top places, considering the opposition met and all other factors would be Holland, West Germany and Brazil in that order, though for the World Cup, with Johan Cruyff deciding not to play, and with the series in South America my favourites list becomes - - - Brazil, West Germany, Holland.

West Germany had a good year but with Helmut Schon still wisely experimenting with players they inevitably met with a couple of bad days. The first, and their only defeat was in Paris, where France beat them 1-0. This game was played before Franz Beckenbauer left for the USA, but West Germany were playing without their new goal-getting star Klaus Fischer.

Fischer did play, and score, against Wales in the last game of the year but again Herr Schon didn't field his full side. It has to be said however that although not specially good, Wales are a difficult team to beat, but nevertheless the German critics were hopping mad after the Wales game, not only with the 1-1 scoreline, but also about the way their team played.

Early in the year I would have rated Italy as one of the top sides in Europe and the world, but in the autumn the Italians didn't do so well. First they lost 1-2 away to West Germany, and even worse, by the manner of their defeat, they were hammered 2-0 by England at Wembley.

These two defeats pushed Italy down the table, and raised serious doubts in my mind about them. In the first half at Wembley, even allowing for the fact that they were content to defend and lose by one or two goals, they showed up some surprising weaknesses.

Dino Zoff is now suspect in my opinion. I first had doubts when I saw him drop an easy cross away to Finland in Helsinki, but although he made a couple of good saves against England, I think that Zoff at 35 is over-the-hill.

Also past his peak is Giacinto Facchetti, also 35 and with Italy's record of 94 caps. Enzo Bearzot omitted him from the last two games of the year against Luxembourg and Belgium, and while he will be very lucky to reach the golden 100 cap mark, Facchetti himself knows the score and has already announced that he will retire after the World Cup.

Yet another player to disappoint me at Wembley was Giancarlo Antognoni, the Italians new 'golden boy' for whom Juventus were said last summer to be ready to pay nearly £2 million.

On his Wembley showing I wouldn't waste the money, though still in his early 20's Antognoni has ample time to come again.

France have qualified for the World Cup for the first time since 1966 but they are far from being a good side. They have a solid defence it is true, and a worthy midfield, but for one thing they lack a really top notch striker who gets goals regularly. Much of their success is due to midfielder Michel Platini, who will show up well in Argentina with his skilful runs with the ball from midfield, and he is the nearest thing France have to a regular scorer.

The Hungarians have been re-built and brought back from the edge of oblivion by Lajos Baroti who is past sixty and was brought back two years ago after Hungary had failed to qualify in 1970 and 1974. Under Baroti the

Breitenbergen clears off the line for Austria against East Germany.

1977

Hungarians have never failed to reach the last sixteen — and he has not only worked the miracle again, but built a very promising team into the bargain.

The years — 1958, 1962 and 1966 were Baroti's successful ones, and now though the game is vastly different today he has done it again. For some years the Hungarians have had a lot of skill but no liking for a battle. Now, with quite a few younger players in the side they seem to be far more resilient against the more physical sides.

Now Hungary are dark horses for the World Cup in my book — not likely to win the trophy of course, but probable semi-finalists.

Rumania's manager Stefan Kovacs suffered a major personal defeat when the Yugoslavs won a critical World Cup game 6-4 in Bucharest to end his hopes of going to Argentina. Having helped Ajax win the European Cup before moving on to take over the French national team for a spell, Kovacs returned home to see that Rumania qualified for the 1978 World Cup.

They were group leaders when disaster struck and had already beaten Yugoslavia 2-0 away, when through a series of defensive and goalkeeping errors they lost 4-6 at home to the Yugoslavs. That ended the Rumanian hopes that had looked so bright. In their first eight games of 1977 the Rumanians had conceded only four goals, but that one defeat pushed them out of the World Cup and well down the 1977 ranking list.

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For Against	% Success
HOLLAND	6	5	1	0	10. 1	91.6%
Portugal	4	3	1	0	10. 3	87.5
Iran	14	10	4	0	21. 4	85.6
Austria	8	5	3	0	17. 3	81.2
Mexico	13	9	3	1	36.12	80.7
West Germany	11	7	3	1	23. 9	77.2
Brazil	13	7	6	0	26. 5	76.9
East Germany	10	6	3	1	19. 7	75.0
Italy	7	5	0	2	16. 6	71.5
Scotland	10	6	2	2	18. 9	70.0
France	8	4	3	1	12. 4	68.7
Hungary	14	8	3	3	31.20	67.8
Rumania	9	5	2	2	20.10	66.6
Argentina	11	5	4	2	17.11	63.6
Bulgaria	8	4	2	2	12. 9	62.5
Russia	10	5	2	3	17. 8	60.0
Spain	6	3	1	2	5. 5	58.3
Tunisia	13	6	3	4	17.13	57.7
Israel	7	2	4	1	8. 6	57.1
Uruguay	9	3	4	2	11. 8	55.5
England	11	4	4	3	13. 7	54.5
Peru	13	5	4	4	24.16	53.8
Poland	13	6	2	5	22.21	53.8
Wales	9	2	5	2	6. 5	50.0
Paraguay	14	5	4	5	16.16	50.0
Denmark	10	5	0	5	18.19	50.0
Czechoslovakia	9	3	2	4	8.10	44.4
Chile	8	3	1	4	11.12	43.7
Eire	5	1	2	2	2. 3	40.0
Sweden	10	4	0	6	9.14	40.0
Switzerland	9	3	1	5	7.13	38.8
Ecuador	9	3	1	5	8.14	38.8
Yugoslavia	13	4	2	7	17.23	38.4
Bolivia	11	3	2	6	13.30	36.3
N. Ireland	7	2	1	4	7.12	35.7
Finland	8	2	1	5	6.16	31.2
Venezuela	5	1	1	3	3. 8	30.0
Norway	6	1	1	4	4. 8	25.0
Greece	8	1	2	5	3.18	25.0
Iceland	5	1	0	4	3.12	20.0
Belgium	6	1	0	5	5. 8	16.6
Colombia	7	0	2	5	2.14	14.2
Turkey	8	1	0	7	6.14	12.5
Cyprus	3	0	0	3	2. 9	0.0
Malta	6	0	0	6	1.25	0.0
Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	0.11	0.0

Sensation

Greece managed to win only one game in 1977 but what a sensation that was. To start with the Greeks are not as poor as their overall figures suggest, but they have problems with their national team.

Their sole victory was at home to Russia (1-0), and that was enough to break the heart of the Russians relatively new and affable team boss Nikita Simonian. In Athens, the Russians had 75 per cent of the play, plastered away at the Greek goal but just couldn't score.

To no small degree, this is due to the fact that most Russian teams play with only two strikers — and some of the lesser sides have only one. The Russian domestic game is still as defence orientated as when they experimented with a no draw policy and had penalty kick shoot outs after 90 minute draws.

Last season, spring to autumn, 1977, no fewer than 42 per cent of all their First Division games ended as either 0-0 draws or 1-1 draws. The result is that Simonian had comparatively few strikers to choose his attack from.

Oleg Blokhin is still there for Dynamo Kiev but though a very good player — prematurely voted European Footballer of the Year — he suffers from the widespread East European 'malaise'.

Having reached the top of his profession, won international honours and in particular being top scorer and playing for the champion club Dynamo Kiev, France Football's award and his Honoured Master of Sport title rounded everything off for him.

Blokhin now has a new flat, a new car and a country *dacha*, all the girls he fancies, and almost a bank full of roubles. What else is there left for him to go for? This is not to say that Blokhin did not try or didn't try hard enough against the Greeks, but it is no incentive for anyone to work hard in training and become even better.

And what of England? This year of eleven games played seven were in the British Isles, while three (all drawn) were in South America and the other game a visit to Luxembourg which was won 2-0.

That England failed to qualify for the World Cup was largely due in my view to the poor game at home to Finland when they allowed the Finns to get away with a 2-1 defeat. Italy at home to Finland won by 6-1, and in the end it was goals difference that counted.

The fact has to be faced however that under Don Revie England were beaten at Wembley by Holland, Wales and Scotland and that's bad news enough. Now, under Ron Greenwood I look forward with far greater confidence, and gambling men who take my advice will get the best odds you can on England qualifying for the last eight to play in Italy in 1980 for the European championship.

More than that, let's wait and see who we meet in the quarter finals, and writing before the World Cup draw is known, but knowing that England will not be seeded I cross my fingers and trust in Ron.

Scotland had a goodish year, losing only to Brazil in Rio de Janeiro (which is no disgrace) and away to East Germany. I remember Ally McLeod being quoted as saying that East Germany were the dirtiest team he had ever seen, but that brings me to my criticism of Scotland.

Scotland can play football. Of course there is no doubt. But they have too many players who are willing, even eager to hand out the rough stuff for my liking. Rioch, McQueen and Hartford are the most aggressive and if FIFA cracks down as they did in 1974, instructing the officials to forget the word intent, and penalise for what they see, this tendency to get rough could cost Scotland dearly.

Ally McLeod would do well to work on this aspect of his team's game.

With the World Cup less than six months away now, Argentina must obtain the services of centre-forward Mario Kempes from Valencia. Last year they played 10 of their 11 games at home but failed to convince a majority of their fans that they have a side capable of winning the World Cup, even given ground advantage.

Manager Luis Menotti has a big squad of players with adequate reserves, but he is short on scoring power and that means Kempes. With Spain qualified that should be a big help for the Spaniards will want to wind up their competitions early to give Kubala time to prepare his team.

● *Continued on page 29*

WHO'S

WORLD SOCCER presents the first of a the players likely to make a major impac A to E — Antognoni to Edström.

GIANCARLO ANTOGNONI (Italy).

The 23-year-old midfield general of Fiorentina has done well in the past three and a half years to survive all the experiments and changed made by Fulvio Bernardini and Enzo Bearzot. Called the new 'Golden Boy' of Italian soccer, he has yet to show the consistency at international level which his precocious talent has promised. Fortunately he has a strong admirer in national manager Bearzot, even if he has plenty of critics among Press and public outside Florence. His form has suffered with his club's collapse into the relegation zone, and Italy will need him to shrug off those cares as he has remained modestly unaffected by the adulation of his girl fans in Florence. Antognoni made the jump from fourth division Astimacombi to first division Fiorentina in autumn 1972 and made his Italy debut two years later in the 3-1 European championship defeat by Holland. His football maturity saw him take over the Fiorentina captaincy a year ago, but he spoiled his image when he was sent off for dissent in a UEFA Cup tie against Schalke in the autumn. Outside football he is a fan himself . . . of film star Dustin Hoffmann.

SADOQ ATTOUGA (Tunisia)

Known as the best goalkeeper in Africa, Tunisia's 32-year-old captain will have ample opportunity to justify his reputation in Argentina. Italian referee Gianfranco Menegali, who controlled one of their vital play-off games with Egypt, described Tunisia as second division standard, and World Cup opponents will be looking to boost their goal difference at the expense of these Finals debutants. Attouga is by far Tunisia's most experienced player, first playing for leading side Club Africain at 18, and quickly making the step into the national team. He's represented his country on more than 130 occasions in amateur, military and senior internationals.

DOMINIQUE BATHENAY (France)

Bathenay was a favourite pupil of Stefan Kovacs, the little Rumanian who spent a couple of years in charge of the French national team after doing so well with Ajax. The qualities Kovacs appreciated so much were Bathenay's willingness to work, and his tremendous stamina, which meant he could perform as a defensive midfielder, but also come through for a crack at goal – as he did in scoring twice in the Champions' Cup against Liverpool a year ago. Bathenay was discovered by Saint-Etienne's general manager, Pierre Garonnaire, playing first for the club at 19 and scoring on his international debut against East Germany two years later. Despite his youth he has already been champion of France three times, gained a Cup-winners' medal twice, and appeared in a Champions' Cup Final. That occasion was at Hampden in 1976, when Saint-Etienne went down narrowly 1-0 to Bayern Munich. At 0-0 Bathenay saw a shot rebound off the woodwork . . .

RICARDO DANIEL BERTONI (Argentina)

When 23-year-old Bertoni was sent off against England in Buenos Aires last summer for punching Trevor Cherry he was doing national manager Cesar Menotti a serious disservice. For the six-match ban his quick temper earned him meant that Menotti had to make do without one of his most important players for other prestige internationals. Though left-footed, Bertoni can play on either wing and provide an equally dangerous threat to goal. Against Hungary a year ago he hit an impressive hat-trick in a 5-1 win, and earlier in that unfortunate match against England he scored direct with a fast swerving free kick. Several foreign clubs have cast envious eyes on him, particularly from Brazil and Spain. But Bertoni is on the list of 'untouchables' drawn up by Menotti and cannot leave Argentina until after the World Cup Finals. He scored 22 goals last season to finish third in the national rankings and push his club, Independiente, to runners-up spot behind River Plate. And all despite a niggling ankle injury.

ROBERTO BETTEGA (Italy)

If 27-year-old Juventus striker Bettega can find the form with which he destroyed Finland last autumn — a 'perfect' hat-trick with one goal from his head, one with his left foot, one with his right — he could do well enough in Argentina to move up from fourth place this year to first in the annual European Footballer of the Year poll. That, and an outstanding tournament for Italy, would mark down Bettega as an ideal training and in June 1975 made his senior debut for Italy in a 1-0 win in Finland in the 1971-72 season, Bettega quit soccer because he was suffering from TB. It was a tragedy not only for the player and club, but also for Italian football, since Bettega had just achieved the unheard-of scoring rate of 10 goals in 14 games. Once back to health he was persuaded to return to training and in June 1975 made his senior debut for Italy in a 1-0 win in Finland in the European championship. From there Bettega has gone from strength to strength. For a big man he is remarkably nimble, and scored vital goals last season against England in Rome and against Bilbao to help Juventus win the UEFA Cup Final. Colleague Dino Zoff has even compared him with Alfredo di Stefano for finishing skill allied to intelligent teamwork.

RAINER BONHOF (West Germany)

Bonhof, 26-year-old midfielder or all-round defender, will probably be joining Valencia in Spain after the World Cup Finals. But with admirable loyalty he put off the move for 18 months to take his part in helping the world champions defend their crown. Bonhof, trained as a mechanic before joining Borussia Moenchengladbach in 1970, has played for West Germany more than 30 times and confirmed his place among Europe's best players during the 1976 European championship finals, when the Germans finished runners-up. It was Bonhof who had revived the flagging 1974 World Cup challenge after the shock defeat by East Germany, his boundless energy and determined tackling restoring the self-confidence which had ebbed away in training camp squabbles. Valencia have already offered Borussia £300,000, but may well have to increase their bid substantially to get their man.

FRANCO CAUSIO (Italy)

Italy and the city of Turin have been divid for several seasons about whether manag Enzo Bearzot should pick Causio or Torin Claudio Sala for the free, unshackl right-wing role in the World Cup team. Bu seems Bearzot will stand by the 29-year-o Juventus trickster, if only because of greater international experience a Bearzot's own reliance on Juventus provide Italy's backbone. Nicknamed 'T Baron', Causio was once turned down Torino after a trial when he travelled no from his southern home at Lecco. Juvent took him on however in 1966, when he w 17, but he played only once in two yea before spending time out on loan to Reggi and Palermo. He did well enough, thou Palermo were relegated, to earn a recall Juventus and has been one of their mo consistently outstanding forwards ev since. He's scored more than 40 goals in 2 league games, played 30 times for Ita appeared in the Champions' Cup Final Juve lost to Ajax in 1973 – and started t moves which led to Bettega's vital goa against England and Bilbao last season.

HECTOR CHUMPITAZ (Peru)

Chumpitaz is one of four men — Nordqvi Rivelino and Facchetti are the others — s to appear in the World Cup Finals and w have achieved on or around 100 caps f their countries. While a number Chumpitaz's games have been, in fact, tri against club or city selections, it's still remarkable feat for a Peruvian player reach 100, since Peru's internation programme is notoriously erratic. Chur pitaz made his first international appea ances in a second division player tournament in 1964, and was one of Peru best players in their delightful run to th quarter finals in Mexico in 1970. A chunk central defender with a violent sho Chumpitaz has never looked in troub against tall forwards thanks to h remarkable heading ability. But at 34 h could be found wanting in the later stages Peru's World Cup games, particular against very fit European opponents.

S WHO

Argentina'78

four-part series by KEIR RADNEDGE featuring t in the World Cup Finals. This month: Part 1 —

JOHAN CRUYFF (Holland)

Will he, or won't he? — Whether 30-year-old Cruyff decides to grace the World Cup Finals with his languidly skilful presence won't be known until the last minute. King Johan has been adamant in public for some time that he will quit soccer before the Finals but I'm not alone in thinking he could just be persuaded to change his mind and try to help Holland go one better than their runners-up place in 1974. Three times European club champion with Ajax Amsterdam — the club he joined as a 10-year-old — Cruyff went to Barcelona in the autumn of 1973 for what was then a world record of £922,000. Already a millionaire from earnings derived not only through playing, but thanks to his multifarious business interests shrewdly guided by father-in-law Cor Coster, Cruyff is the only player to have been named European Footballer of the Year three times. His memory of Argentina, however, isn't a pleasant one. A world club cup tie between Ajax and Estudiantes left him with a knee injury which bothered him for the next 18 months. Increasingly injury-prone lately, Cruyff showed against Ipswich in the UEFA Cup that he can still turn on the magic when it's needed.

TEOFILO CUBILLAS (Peru)

All Peru will be looking to 27-year-old Cubillas to repeat the 1970 miracle when they go out for their first match in Argentina. But this time it won't be so easy — opponents will have more respect for the Peruvians, and Cubillas — after several injuries — is not the explosive power he was in Mexico. However he remains Peru's most experienced player, and most potent goal force. In the 1970 Finals he scored a wonderful individual goal against Bulgaria, then two more against Morocco as well as one against Brazil in the 3-2 defeat in the quarter finals. Three years later he joined Basle of Switzerland for £65,000 but never settled there and soon went to Porto in Portugal. Here he was fortunate in teaming up with Aymore Moreira, boss of Brazil's 1962 World Cup-winners, and stayed two years before returning to Alianza Lima to help Peru's World Cup effort.

KENNY DALGLISH (Scotland)

Dalglish cost Liverpool £440,000 when they signed him from Celtic during the summer to replace Hamburg-bound Kevin Keegan. It shattered the old British transfer record, but modest teetotaller Dalglish has been unmoved by all the fuss. Still, with Celtic he had gained a lot of experience. He won every honour the Scottish game could offer, and was Celtic's captain and top scorer when they won the 1977 league title. Not that Dalglish has ever been an out-and-out striker, although that is the role in which he has made most of his Liverpool appearances. Dalglish was creator as much as scorer with Celtic, and played for Scotland – he was won 50 caps – in the 1974 World Cup Finals. He appeared a little overawed by the occasions and failed to produce his best form. A dedicated professional, Dalglish was described as a "manager's dream" by Jock Stein, the man who signed him for Celtic in 1967, at the time the club were celebrating their Champions' Cup triumph. Now 26.

Teofilio Cubillas

KAZIMIERZ DEYNA (Poland)

The years 1972-74 were the best for this 30-year-old captain of Legia Warsaw and Poland. In 1972 he was top scorer as Poland won the Olympic title for the first time in Munich, and two years later he was back in West Germany in the same Olympic stadium to lead his team to the win over Brazil which assured them of third place in the World Cup. The years since have been unsettling for this skilful midfield general, with transfers to Bayern Munich and AZ Alkmaar falling through because the Polish FA wouldn't relent on their rule that no player may leave until he is 30 — if then. Deyna even threatened to walk out on soccer before wiser counsel prevailed and he threw his weight back into the World Cup campaign. If Poland can do well again this time, he might just be allowed to play the last couple of years of his career in Western Europe.

RALF EDSTRÖM (Sweden)

Edström's decision to quit professional soccer in Holland and return to Sweden to join IFK Göteborg was a big surprise to many people last summer. After all, he had done so well in three years with PSV Eindhoven that he could virtually have named his own price to any of the major European clubs interested in him. Instead, his confidence jarred by a series of back injuries and his resolution helped by the offer of a good job which would assure him security outside soccer, he turned his back on the present for the sake of the future. Edström began in the top flight in Sweden with Atvidaberg in 1971, hitting four goals in a league game in 1972 and making his international debut the same year. In only his second game for Sweden he headed a hat-trick against Russia in a 4-4 draw and was "the best centre forward" in the 1974 World Cup Finals, according to Alfredo di Stefano — who should know his centre-forwards!

Next month: Part II — Facchetti to Krol.

Roberto Bettega

1977

January

Saudi Arabia 0 Iran 3
Paraguay 2 Ecuador 0
Tunisia 1 Morocco 1
Algeria 1 Bulgaria 1
Paraguay 1 Uruguay 1
Colombia 0 Ecuador 1
Venezuela 1 Ecuador 0
Brazil 1 Bulgaria 0
Mexico 2 Peru 1
Uruguay 2 Paraguay 1
Israel 1 Greece 1
Italy 2 Belgium 1
Ecuador 4 Colombia 1
Guatemala 0 Yugoslavia 2
Chile 4 Paraguay 0
Syria 0 Iran 1
Gambia 1 Denmark 4
Cyprus 1 Bulgaria 2
Uruguay 3 Chile 0
Colombia 0 Yugoslavia 1

February

France 2 Rumania 0
Senegal 2 Denmark 3
Paraguay 2 Chile 0
Mexico 5 Yugoslavia 1
Bolivia 0 Paraguay 1
Tunisia 2 Algeria 0
Peru 3 Hungary 2
Mexico 0 Yugoslavia 1
England 0 Holland 2
Eire 0 Spain 1
Venezuela 1 Uruguay 1
Bolivia 2 Paraguay 2
Australia 1 Israel 1
Ecuador 2 Paraguay 1
Australia 1 Israel 1
Ecuador 1 Peru 1
Colombia 0 Brazil 0
Mexico 1 Hungary 1
France 1 West Germany 0
Colombia 0 Paraguay 1
Algeria 1 Tunisia 1
Argentina 5 Hungary 1
Ecuador 0 Chile 1
Bolivia 1 Uruguay 0
Israel 0 South Korea 0

March

Tunisia 1 Malta 0
Paraguay 1 Colombia 1
Venezuela 1 Bolivia 3
Chile 1 Peru 1
Israel 2 Japan 0
Qatar 1 Tunisia 0
Austria 2 Greece 0
Brazil 6 Colombia 0
Israel 2 Japan 0
Peru 4 Ecuador 0
Paraguay 0 Brazil 1
Bolivia 2 Venezuela 0
Uruguay 2 Venezuela 0
Tunisia 0 Russia 3
South Korea 3 Israel 1
Brazil 1 Paraguay 1
Chile 3 Ecuador 0
Argentina 1 Iran 1
Rumania 4 Turkey 0
Yugoslavia 2 Russia 4
Czechoslovakia 4 Greece 0
Belgium 0 Holland 2
Spain 1 Hungary 1
Peru 2 Chile 0
Uruguay 2 Bolivia 2
England 5 Luxembourg 0
Eire 1 France 0
Wales 3 Czechoslovakia 0
Portugal 1 Switzerland 0

April

Malta 0 East Germany 1
Turkey 1 Finland 2
Iran 2 Syria 0
Hungary 2 Poland 1
Bulgaria 3 Denmark 1
Rumania 1 Spain 0
Austria 1 Turkey 0
Hungary 2 Czechoslovakia 0
Iran 2 Saudi Arabia 0
Switzerland 0 France 4
Eire 0 Poland 0
Russia 2 Greece 0
Scotland 3 Sweden 1
West Germany 5 N. Ireland 0
Rumania 1 East Germany 1
Hungary 2 Russia 1
Yugoslavia 1 West Germany 2
Austria 9 Malta 0

May

Denmark 1 Poland 2
Yugoslavia 0 Rumania 2
Greece 1 Russia 0
Cyprus 1 Poland 3
Mexico 1 Peru 1
Russia 2 Hungary 0
Switzerland 1 Czechoslovakia 0
Mexico 2 Peru 1
Sweden 1 Norway 0
Luxembourg 0 Finland 1
Haiti 1 Peru 2
N. Ireland 1 England 2
Wales 0 Scotland 0
Hungary 3 Greece 0
Argentina 3 Poland 1
Peru 2 Haiti 2
England 0 Wales 1

June

Scotland 3 N. Ireland 0
Bulgaria 2 Eire 1
Norway 0 Denmark 2
Czechoslovakia 0 Austria 0
N. Ireland 1 Wales 1
England 1 Scotland 2
Argentina 1 West Germany 3
Guinea 1 Tunisia 0
Sweden 2 Switzerland 1
Finland 0 Italy 3
Brazil 0 England 0
Uruguay 0 West Germany 2
Peru 1 Poland 3
Bolivia 1 Poland 3
Brazil 1 West Germany 1
Argentina 1 England 1
Mexico 2 West Germany 2
Uruguay 0 England 0
Chile 2 Scotland 4
Denmark 2 Sweden 1
Argentina 1 Scotland 1
Brazil 3 Poland 1
Hong Kong 0 Iran 2
Tunisia 3 Guinea 1
Finland 1 Denmark 2
Brazil 2 Scotland 0
Argentina 0 France 0
Brazil 0 Yugoslavia 0
Brazil 2 France 2
Iceland 2 Norway 1

July

Argentina 1 Yugoslavia 0
South Korea 0 Iran 0
Brazil 1 Peru 0
Argentina 2 East Germany 0
Brazil 8 Bolivia 0
Peru 5 Bolivia 0
Iceland 0 Sweden 1

August

Iran 0 Rumania 0
East Germany 2 Russia 1
Australia 0 Iran 1
Sweden 0 East Germany 1
Norway 1 Finland 1
Argentina 2 Paraguay 1
Austria 2 Poland 1
Paraguay 2 Argentina 0
Holland 4 Iceland 1

September

Belgium 4 Iceland 0
Tunisia 2 Malta 1
Wales 0 Kuwait 0
East Germany 1 Scotland 0
Finland 0 West Germany 1
Russia 4 Poland 1
England 0 Switzerland 0
Norway 2 Sweden 1
Czechoslovakia 1 Turkey 0
Poland 4 Denmark 1
Scotland 3 Czechoslovakia 1
Switzerland 1 Spain 2
N. Ireland 2 Iceland 0
Bulgaria 3 Turkey 1
Rumania 6 Greece 1
Kuwait 0 Wales 0
Austria 1 East Germany 1
Tunisia 0 Nigeria 0
Mexico 3 U.S.A. 0

October

Holland 0 Russia 0
Sweden 1 Denmark 0
Hungary 4 Yugoslavia 3
Switzerland 2 Finland 0
West Germany 2 Italy 1
France 0 Russia 0
Mexico 4 Haiti 1
Denmark 2 Portugal 4
Mexico 3 El Salvador 1
Hungary 3 Sweden 0
N. Ireland 0 Holland 1
East Germany 1 Austria 1
Wales 0 Scotland 2
Eire 0 Bulgaria 0
Luxembourg 0 England 2
Italy 6 Finland 1
Mexico 8 Surinam 1
Mexico 2 Guatemala 1
Mexico 3 Canada 1
Holland 1 Belgium 0

Scotland's Danny McGrain (left) in action against Argentina last year.

● Continued from page 25

Looking at the results table, East Germany are the highest placed team who failed to qualify for the World Cup, and by my reckoning, with Iran, Mexico and Portugal all de-moted, that would place the DDR fifth. They failed in my view because manager Georg Buschner played too defensively in the key games at home and away to Austria. Both games ended 1-1 and that was enough to give Austria the edge for the DDR boobed in 1976 by dropping a home point to Turkey for the same over-cautious reasons.

Buschner will probably be regretting now that he overlooked his top striker Joachim Streich of 1st FC Magdeburg for so many games. What Streich might have done for the DDR was illustrated in the home game v Malta near the end of the campaign. The Germans struggled to a 3-0 lead at the break, scoring their third goal in the last seconds. Streich came on for the second half to take three goals himself and help the score zoom to 9-0.

Had Streich played in the two games against Austria the outcome could have been very different.

If East Germany are the highest placed failures, the lowest placed team to gain a place in Argentina is Sweden. Overall they occupy 30th place and during the year they lost no fewer than six games and had a negative goals tally of 9 to 14.

They had an easy World Cup group against only the near amateurs of Norway and Switzerland. In a tougher group they would surely have failed.

Spain 2 Rumania 0
Iran 1 Kuwait 0
Poland 1 Portugal 1
Hungary 6 Bolivia 0
East Germany 9 Malta 0
Turkey 0 Austria 1
Switzerland 1 Norway 0

November

Czechoslovakia 1 Hungary 1
Iran 2 South Korea 2
Poland 2 Sweden 1
Nigeria 0 Tunisia 1
Rumania 4 Yugoslavia 6
Portugal 4 Cyprus 0
West Germany 4 Switzerland 1
Greece 0 Yugoslavia 0
Czechoslovakia 1 Wales 0
Turkey 1 East Germany 2
N. Ireland 3 Belgium 0
France 3 Bulgaria 1
England 2 Italy 0
Iran 3 Hong Kong 0
Iran 1 Australia 0
Malta 0 Turkey 3
Egypt 3 Tunisia 2
Bolivia 2 Hungary 3
Yugoslavia 0 Spain 1

December

Kuwait 1 Iran 2
Italy 3 Luxembourg 0
Tunisia 4 Egypt 1
West Germany 1 Wales 1
Belgium 0 Italy 1

● Continued from page 20

Group four: Holland, Scotland, Peru and Iran.

It looks deceptively simple for Scotland and Holland. Both can call on lively squads of talented players with plenty of experience. But it's not that easy.

For one thing, Holland may be without Johan Cruyff, and his presence has not only a physical but psychological effect on the rest of the team. His absence could be disastrous for a nation who may now be past their peak — particularly as Ajax striker Ruud Geels, who steps in for Cruyff usually — says he doesn't want to be included in the squad for Argentina.

As for Scotland, their World Cup record is poor, and their history against so-called weak nations is abysmal. Add to that, concern about the short-fuse tempers of some of their players and there appears less reason why they should do as well as some of the British Press have intimated.

Peru, though their preparation plans so far are a shambles, will have plenty of support and be far more at home than the Scots, while Iran could well emulate the amazing North Koreans of 1966.

Iran's squad will be guided by Heshmat Mohadjerani, one of 13 new managers in the Finals. The old hands are Helmut Schoen (West Germany) and Georg Ericsson (Sweden) — both of whom were there in 1974 — and Lajos Baroti (Hungary) who was there in 1958, 1962 and 1966.

At this distance it looks like a West Germany-Brazil final, but the only fact of which I can be certain is that the World Cup will throw up the usual share of disappointments and surprises. Hungary could be one of the surprises, if they aren't beaten before the start by the size of the group one task awaiting them, and an over-confident Scotland might even be one of the disappointments.

And when it's all over there will be another battle to come, surrounding the 1982 Finals.

Havelange, as part of his election manifesto to the presidency in 1974, promised the Third World that to earn them a greater representation in the Finals, the number of teams would be increased from 16 to 20 or 24.

He's repeatedly stated that the increase will be made in time for 1982 in Spain.

But, UEFA president Artemio Franchi was equally firm recently that the European nations will resist attempts to expand the Finals. And the ultimate outcome could be FIFA, already fraying at the seams, falling apart altogether.

Kevin Keegan in action for England against Argentina in Buenos Aires last year.

Eric Weil reviews the South American scene

Zico says Brazil will need more than skill

ARTHUR ANTUNES COIMBRA, ("Zico" to soccer fans,) the Flamengo forward they call Pele's successor — although he himself does not think so and is not even sure he will make the Brazilian first eleven for the World Cup — is sure that the European teams, including England and Scotland, who came to play in Brazil last June did not show all their skills as they defended more with the object of avoiding defeat.

Zico believes the only way to beat these tight defence setups is with rapid positional inter-changing and playing on the wings. Coach Coutinho, he says, is working on this, but he feels it will not be enough for Brazil to rely on their traditional skill and ball play to beat these defences. They will have to add harder play and physical strength to their soccer to play European teams at their own game. In this, Zico thinks, they will learn a lot on their pre-World Cup European tour.

Brazil will play France, West Germany, Atletico de Madrid, England and Holland in Europe (the last mentioned match still had to be confirmed at press time) from April 1st to 19th after meeting Argentina in home and away games for the Roca Cup during March. On their return from Europe they will play further friendly matches in Brazil and are due to leave for Argentina on May 26.

Did the change of coach last year (Claudio Coutinho for Osvaldo Brandao) make any difference? Zico thinks not. Both tried to get the best out of the team and to maintain its style, he says. Brandao imposed his characteristic attacking style as he has always been in charge of winning teams. Coutinho is trying to make changes without moving away from the traditional Brazilian school, but, Zico thinks, both are excellent coaches.

● **Austrian soccer officials on a tour of the World Cup venues in Argentina in November said that world champion Formula One racing driver Niki Lauda had offered to act as driver for their team during the World Cup.**

The Austrians gave a cocktail party for the press on arrival and a dinner before they left and were ready to talk to newsmen on all things at all times with charming manners in sharp contrast to Scottish manager Ally McLeod who was here at the same time.

He rebuffed interviews at most times and often gave irrelevant replies to questions.

At first he seemed rather keen on Mar del Plata, the seaside resort, 400 kilometres from Buenos Aires, for Scotland's headquarters during the World Cup. Later, on visiting other venues where games will be played, he expressed a preference for Rosario, 300 kilometres from Buenos Aires.

ARGENTINE First Division champions River Plate started the national championship on the wrong foot and never quite recovered and this will be the first tournament (since pro soccer started here in 1930) in which they will not meet their traditional foes, Boca Juniors.

Both have always been in the First Division and in the past, when tournaments have been played in sections, inter-section matches had always been scheduled to put them against each other (for the gate). Not this time however and River Plate are not going to win their group to qualify for the semi-finals.

River Plate rested first teamers Gonzalez, Luque, Ortiz, Merlo, Saporiti, Passarella and Marchetti in their opening game against Racing. The players had no break between the First Division and national championships this time and coach Angel Labruna thought that two clubs from each eight-team section qualify for the final stages as before and that the loss of one game would not matter greatly. When he realised his mistake, he tried to contact the players with the help of a radio station, but it was too late and River Plate lost 3-0.

Now River Plate trail group C leaders Talleres (Cordoba) — again looking like the strongest non-First Division contestants with their last five games won — by five points with only six games to go and they have yet to travel to Cordoba. Meanwhile Racing Club are just a point from the top. Their big pre-season buys had brought them little result, but the recent signing of veteran Avallay (from Chacarita Juniors) seemed to do the trick. He has scored the vital goals — eight of the team's 15.

Yazalde, returned from Europe, also soon hit the goal trail for his new club, Newell's Old Boys (a hat-trick in his second match) who lead the weak A section with San Lorenzo. This includes a village team, Otamendi (pop. 4,000) who qualified as Mar del Plata's representatives and have not done too badly.

National champions Boca Juniors moved to joint leadership of section B with Estudiantes de La Plata at press time by beating them 1-0. In an encounter between two teams playing the same close marking, tight defence and counter-attack game, one goal was always likely to settle the issue. Boca scored it after 25 minutes and thereafter defended it.

But Independiente look good in section D where they lead jointly with Belgrano (Cordoba), another non-First Division club. The latter ended Indenpendiente's 18-game unbeaten streak and are still unbeaten at press time, but Independiente, who have now played their last 21 of 22 games without defeat, look the more solid team.

This championship, for which all 20 First Division clubs (except the three relegated

International goalkeeper Baley (left) sits helpless on the ground and the Huracan defence is in a tangle as Independiente score on the way to a 2-0 victory in the Argentina national championship.

International forward Luque (right) of River Plate prepares to beat a Racing Club defender in an Argentine national championship game which the latter won 2-1.

ones), promotion winners Estudiantes Buenos Aires and 11 other provincial clubs (through regional competitions) qualified, is being played on Wednesday and Saturday evenings because of the heat (Soccer has never continued so far into summer), but gates are low and in most cases do not cover the high travelling expenses.

The soccer is also mostly poor, with most First Division teams stale after the long season and they, as well as provincial clubs, tired from long travelling, frequently by bus instead of by air to cut expenses.

● IN COLOMBIA, Junior of Baranquilla won the professional league for the first time since it started in 1948 with still one match to go in the six team final round. Junior, not considered favourites but showing steady form throughout the season, had also won the "Opening" championship to qualify for the final round.

● IN PARAGUAY, Cerro Porteño had already assured themselves of the title with two weeks to go and ended the season with a three point lead over second placed Libertad (last year's champions). Guarani's Gustavo Fanego finished as top scorer with 12 goals.

● IN VENEZUELA, Portuguesa, champions for the last three years, again won everything this season — the Cup, the league championship and then the top-six play-off for the title.

The four-time champions from Acarigua, with former Brazilian World Cup star Jairzinho (1970) and leading scorer Peralta (from Paraguay) outstanding, are only one of several provinicial clubs which are overshadowing those from the capital, Caracas, and replacing baseball as the number one sport in their areas. It will also be the third year running that Estudiantes, from Merida, accompany Portuguesa into the Libertadores Cup as runners up. But Venezuelan soccer is still mostly imported. Of the 220 professionals registered this season 55% were from abroad — Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, Paraguay and Colombia.

● IN BOLIVIA, Joao Havelange, the Brazilian FIFA president, warned the Bolivian FA that FIFA might have to take steps unless soccer administration there returns to normal.

On a short visit to La Paz he lamented the government's intervention of the FA which had been split when several strong clubs from all over the country broke away to form a new professional league (as previously published). This is currently in progress with Oriente Petrolero and last year's national champions, Bolivia within a point of each other at the top of section A.

● IN BRAZIL the second stage groups of the national championship are in progress with defending champions Internacional de Porto Alegre crashing 4-1 to Sao Paulo at press time and dropping to third place behind them and Corinthians (the Sao Paulo champions) in group G. But with only three games played in this phase of the championship and an extra point being awarded for winning by two or more goals, a lot can happen yet.

Atletico Minas Gerais, who have temporarily taken over as the state's top team from Cruzeiro, the 1976 Libertadores Cup winners and 1977 finalists, have the biggest lead of five points in group L, but group J leaders Botafogo (Rio) hit the headlines with a 6,300 dollars a month offer to former Brazilian national team coach "Lobo" Zegalo — under whom they won the World Cup in 1970 — to come back and coach them. Zegalo had been coaching Kuwait in their World Cup group games.

● IN PERU the top six teams are in the process of playing an extra round to decide the title, carrying on with points obtained during the championship.

Small provincial clubs Colegio Nacional Iquitos and Melgar topped the table with 39 points each after each team had met home and away, but after two games of the final round the latter, Alianza Lima and Sporting Cristal share the lead with 40. There are three games to go.

● IN ECUADOR a six-team final round is also in progress with clubs starting with bonus points accumulated by finishing in the top three places of the season's two tournaments.

Liga Deportiva Universitaria (Quito) and Barcelona (Guayaquil), who both started with three bonus points, top the table with six and five respectively.

● IN CHILE there was only one game to go at press time with Union Española, leading last year's champions, Everton, by two points, needing only a draw to lift the title.

●SEE CLASSIFIED RESULTS FOR LEAGUE TABLES

UNBEATEN FLORIANA

BY the end of season 1976/1977, Floriana F.C. were the only team in Europe to win the domestic championship without conceding a defeat. Floriana F.C., the second oldest club in the sunny George Cross Island, won the League Championship for the 26th time in their 76 years of history.

Floriana F.C. were held twice to a draw, but in the other matches they ran out comfortable winners.

This was not the first time that the Greens won the championship undefeated but it was their first time without a defeat in a 18-match programme.

Floriana F.C. are the "Team of the Moment". They are the backbone of the Malta National Team, which participated in Group III (Europe) in the World Cup Championships 1978. Eight of the players are full internationals.

Protagonist is Willie Vassallo, captain of the side and of the National team with 23 caps. A natural ball-player, Vassallo is a tremendous midfielder, dominating in defence and is a capable scorer. Vassallo tasted professionalism during the last summer months when he was temporarily transferred to play for the Green Gully Ajax, a prominent team in the Victorian State of the Australian League.

Another prominent midfielder, Ray Xuereb, is at present having a trial with Newcastle United F.C., the English First Division side. When the Magpies toured Malta at the end of season 1976/1977, they were much impressed by the display of Xuereb in the Floriana-Newcastle (1-1) match. At the end of last season, Ray Xuereb was voted by the M.F.A. as the "Footballer of the Year".

Anton Camilleri, George Ciantar, Frankie Micallef, John Holland, Edwin Farrugia and George Xuereb are full internationals.

Floriana could be considered as a "Family Team". There were occasions when four pairs of brothers played in the same match. George and Ray Xuereb, Dorian, John and Julian Holland, Ray and Tony Farrugia and Frankie and Powie Micallef are brothers!

Floriana F.C., undoubtedly the most successful team in domestic competitions, are presented coached by Tony Formosa. Formosa, an F.A. qualified coach, previously coached Hamrun Spartans, Valletta F.C. and Malta. Formosa was Malta's coach when the locals played England at Wembley Stadium (0-5) in the European Football Championships in 1971.

by Jack Rollin

Bobby Robson

Dave Sexton

Brian Clough

THE King and Queen of the Sleeping Beauty story made what proved to be a fateful error when they invited only 12 fairies to the christening of their daughter. Number 13 arrived and stirred it up as everyone knows.

Ron Greenwood has not made the same mistake in selecting just about every likely candidate to run the various international teams under full level.

In fact of the short-listed gathering for the original post of national team manager only Lawrie McMenemy was left out when the gifts were bestown around the about the lower echelons.

McMenemy apart, the roll call for the other posts in the Kingdom reads like the Who's Who of the game's celebrities that one would expect. Assisting Greenwood will be Bill Taylor of Manchester City as coach and Geoff Hurst of Telford United as assistant coach.

Both these two were in similar positions for the three autumn international matches when Greenwood was acting in a temporary capacity. Taylor had first come into the orbit when coach at Fulham and Hurst is an old buddy from West Ham days of course and will be remembered as the only player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup Final vintage 1966.

The newly to be regurgitated 'B' team will have Bobby Robson as its manager and the present Ipswich Town boss will have Don Howe the Arsenal coach as his assistant. These two were colleagues in England's 1962 World Cup side in fact.

In the Under-21 sphere Dave Sexton of Manchester United continues in charge and Terry Venables the manager of Crystal Palace will act as coach. At youth level the present manager Ken Burton will be merged in a joint partnership with Brian Clough who not so long ago was the favourite for Greenwood's England job himself.

Clough will not be parted from his shadow Peter Taylor who becomes youth team coach in the new structure.

So much for the list of appointments all of whom with the exception of Burton are on a part-time basis. What will be the effect of all this reorganisation?

There can be little quarrel with the individuals who have been given these varied roles. All of them have excellent qualities in their own right. But this in itself is not the answer for what ails English football at present.

By appointing a new captain of the ship it will not do anything to repair the damage which exists if there is a hole in the bottom of the boat. He can issue orders to board it up but so by the same measures could the skipper, first mate or even Bo'sun before him. Other holes might develop if there are weaknesses in the structure.

Most of the soccer problems occur at schoolboy level and even earlier when thanks to saturated television coverage of the game they know about 4-2-4 and 4-3-3 long before they can even control a ball properly.

What is needed is for a ten year programme to be instituted for schoolboys where they would play only a minimal number of competitive games and spend the rest of their time at football mastering its skills. But can anyone visualise such a revolution in this country?

The new regime has a better chance of short-term success than anything in the future for the reasons stated. Alas this is surely not what is required.

And though no spell was cast on this guest list at least in the old tale when the prince finally rode up and woke the sleeping princess one hundred years later, everything was right again even though it was a trifle dated.

This new version has no magic wand to wave it success but that alone cannot save it from becoming grim fairy tale.

The BRIAN GLANVILLE column

EVER since Alf Ramsey's day our football managers have been tending to hide their insecurities behind their professionalism. Sir Alf's view was that only the happy few, the fully initiated, could comprehend the profound mysteries of soccer. He, of course, was one of them. No fan or journalist could ever be admitted into the magic circle.

Jargon ruled. Players were forever manifesting work rate or making space. Sir Alf was never a qualified F.A. Coach and used to say with a smile that those who were, such as Wade and Hughes, used language that baffled him. In his insistence that the arcane secrets of soccer could be revealed only to the elect, however, he was far more an obfuscator than either of them.

Those so called Press Conferences which follow Football League matches become more and more hazardous. Recently, after a game at Brighton, James Lawton of the *Daily Express* politely asked Alan Mullery of Brighton why it was, with the scores level, that he had chosen to substitute his most frequent goal scorer, Peter Ward. That, he was told — scarcely an answer to his question — is why I am a manager and you are a journalist.

The conversation deteriorated from there. At Chelsea, some weeks later, Everton's manager Gordon Lee replied to journalists' questions about which of his men had been booked, protesting at a penalty, that though he knew, he had no intention of telling them. That was their job. If they wished, they could ask the referee.

To praise of his excellent young Scottish goalkeeper, George Wood, he replied that reaction saves weren't what goalkeeping was "about". It was, it appeared, "about" operating as a kind of sweeper; something, in any case, which Grosics was doing in the fifties and Yachine copies from Bulgaria's Ivanov, by his own admission, earlier still.

The biscuit, though, was surely taken by Tommy Docherty with the remarks he made at Highbury after Derby County has beaten Arsenal. "It's like this," he informed his hearers. "If Bobby Charlton told the players the grass out there was red, they'd believe him. No disrespect to Colin Murphy and Dario Gradi because they're both fine coaches, but if they said the grass was yellow, the players would say, 'Oh, yeah, who did you play for? 'Like it or not, that's the way in football. They only respect you if you have played the game at their level."

That must have been interesting news for Mike Smith, the young Englishman who has the total respect of the Welsh international team, not least its captain, Terry Yorath, and has to their delight recently signed a new three year contract, just before wresting a 1-1 draw from the West Germans, in Dortmund. Smith played football only as an amateur for the Corinthian-Casuals, yet his success with little Wales has been astonishing.

Not that one should take Docherty's pronouncement — a familiar one — too seriously.

Follow his prescription to its logical, or illogical, extension, and Bobby Charlton should have been a wonderfully successful manager. Instead, after a brief and unhappy spell at Preston, he isn't even in the game. Certainly, other things being equal, it must be an advantage to have been a professional player, but it is not, like patriotism, enough. Until we follow the example of the West Germans and institute exhaustive courses which aspiring managers must pass, no matter how many caps they have gained for their country, we shall continue to have pitifully few good ones.

Breezy MacLeod

ALLY MacLeod's breezy refusal to demonstrate the fashionable managerial paranoia is one of the reasons why I find the Scottish manager such an engaging figure. You can criticise his team, and he will not fly into a defensive sulk, inform you that you know nothing about it, insist that there were dark, deep and decisive reasons for what seemed, on the face of it, to be a mistake.

Thus, if you mention that Scotland looked strangely ineffectual on the right flank when they played Wales at Liverpool, he will concede as much, and admit that he thought Alex Jardine had his poorest international for Scotland. He will also add that when Martin Buchan came on, things looked much livelier.

MacLeod is quite convinced a European team will win the tournament, he told me, but doesn't believe it will be West Germany or Holland. Soccer, he believes, goes in cycles, and the Germans have come to the end of theirs, while Hungary have after twenty years "come good" again.

He says that he pays great attention to how a country's club teams are faring in the European tournaments: West Germany's have not been doing well, nor have Holland's. As for Italy, he admires the likes of Causio and Bettega, but believes that Benetti, "the little hard man," is the key player, that had he not been putting himself about at Wembley, "Italy would have thrown in the sponge."

If anything should happen to Benetti, he says, to put him out of the team in Argentina, he can quite imagine Italy suffering another North Korea, possibly against Iran. Argentina he discounts on the basis of the three matches he recently saw in Buenos Aires – though of course it must be remembered that he took his Scottish team to Buenos Aires last year.

There was, he says, a poor level of League play there, much running with the ball, not much effective team play, though he admits that the pitches were good. In the World Cup, by contrast, they will be excellent, worthy of comparison with Wembley, sown from seed imported from England and West Germany.

This, he thinks, will be an enormous help to the European teams, whereas a bumpy pitch might have favoured the ball playing Brazilians and Argentinians. Brazil impressed him in Rio last year, but only up to a point.

Rivelino he largely neutralised by appreciating that some eighty per cent of his passes were played down the inside-right position, and stationing Martin Buchan there to intercept.

Brazil, he thinks, are a formidable side when they go a goal ahead, but not when they go a goal behind. They are, he says, easily frustrated – they were practically coming to blows in the tunnel at half-time in the Scotland game.

MacLeod says firmly that if he brings any more players into the Scottish party, they will not be Ormond's but his own men, "people who want to play for me." I remember him well as a skilled and thoughtful blond outside-left with Blackburn Rovers, in the days when that club was in the First Division – perhaps Jim Smith will even get them back there this season – and they had a gifted forward-line. He's a refreshing figure. I hope that he continues to do well.

MORE NEWS, if that's what you can call it, of Lobo-Solti. UEFA, showing their well known urgency, took the advice of a lawyer who advised them that . . . Juventus should sue Solti. No, seriously. Six full, long months after Botsford and I, in the SUNDAY TIMES, had published the photostat of a document signed by Solti on behalf of Juventus, agreeing Fairs Cup dates with Twente Enschede, the mountain has parturated this pathetic mouse. You may draw your own conclusions from this. I know what mine are.

With any luck, Solti and the rest will be dead before the case ever gets to an Italian court. This, naturally, would displease UEFA no end. We all know how passionately eager they are to clear up any kind of corruption. A disgraceful evasion of their moral duties? Who said that? Someone, surely, unacquainted with the legal niceties perceived by UEFA and their advisors.

Solti, if UEFA and Juventus are interested, is still in the same apartment in Milan, but nowadays when he answers the phone he doesn't say any more that he's his own brother. "I'm someone else," he croaks, the poor old thing. There are bigger, nastier fish in the European sea than Solti, but alas they continue to swim free.

NO SUBSTITUTE FOR DALGLISH

SOCCER'S protection racket is quite simple to operate. The manager assembles around him the best players he can get and then uses his own particular talent to build a team worthy of honours.

Well, it sounds easy, but it is something which Jock Stein has been unable to do at Parkhead this season. Celtic sold Kenny Dalglish to Liverpool for £440,000 without having a replacement ready to step in. That was a blunder . . . there can be absolutely no doubt about that.

When the Parkhead men went looking for bargains they were unlikely to get any when other clubs knew they had all that cash attracting dust in the bank. And the bulk of that money is still there, doing very little as far as most of Celtic's loyal fans are concerned.

Jock Stein has spent just over £100,000 in bringing Tom McAdam (£60,000 from Dundee United), Frank Munro (£20,000 from Wolves), John Dowie (£25,000 from Fulham) and Joe Filippi (£10,000 from Ayr United). Young reserve Brian McLaughlin also went to Ayr in the Filippi deal. You don't need to have a college education to work out that Celtic still have over £300,000 on their hands.

Their results this season have been disastrous and the fans have had to endure some awful soccer. The entrancing moves that are the hallmark of the club are being shown only in glimpses, rare glimpses. The fans want a big name player to replace Dalglish and Celtic say they have tried without success.

They must be the only club in the land who can't get the player they want! Manchester United got Joe Jordan and Liverpool got Graeme Souness. Oh, I know the economics are vastly different between Scotland and England, but, at the same time, every player would appear to have his price. Are Celtic willing to pay this? It would appear not.

I watched Celtic in their first fixture of the new year against Motherwell at Parkhead. They had just suffered a dreadful 2-1 defeat from Ayr, the second time they had lost to the little Somerset Park part-timers this season. The fans still rolled up in their thousands to give them a welcome, but at the end those same supporters were a frustrated lot.

This was the third time Celtic had played Motherwell at Parkhead this term and, amazingly, they have yet to score a goal against them on their own soil! They have lost both League matches 1-0 and drew 0-0 in the League Cup. It is true they have not had much luck against the Fir Parkers, who are unlikely to win any honours in a Fairplay League.

I reckon they have hit the woodwork five times in those three matches, while Motherwell have created about four chances . . . and scored twice! In the new year game I thought they were most unfortunate and got little from referee David Syme, who gave one the impression that you would have to lose a limb in the Motherwell penalty area before he would award a penalty against them.

Still, luck and bad refereeing aside, Celtic just didn't know how to cope with this dull and unenterprising Motherwell side, whose main tactics were to defend in depth and strike swiftly on the break. Not the most imaginative of tactics.

In the end the Celtic players appeared happy to throw hopeful high balls in the penalty area and that was about effective as jumping off Mount Everest without a parachute. It was suicide and it played right into Motherwell's hands.

There was little adventure from Celtic. None of the devastating, lightning bursts that can prise open any defence. It was like a Rolls-Royce running on no star petrol.

Five days later Celtic went into their third Old Firm encounter of the season . . . and again came out without a victory. Rangers have now won two and drawn one, but even they must admit they were extremely lucky to pick up both points in this match. It was the Parkhead men who did most of the attacking, but again refereeing blunders from John Gordon had the Celtic men angry and frustrated.

They were hit on the break when Gordon Smith opened the scoring. I thought goalkeeper Peter Latchford was far too quick off his line in this case and gave Smith no option but to hammer his shot into the exposed far corner of the net. A couple of minutes later it was mayhem! Rangers centre-half Colin Jackson pushed Joe Craig in the back as he went for a high ball and every Celtic player immediately appealed for a penalty. It looked valid, but, astonishingly, Gordon didn't give the award.

He then compounded the error when, surrounded by protesting Celtic players, he appeared to be racing towards the linesman who had his flag up, when he suddenly wheeled and waved play on. While his back had been turned Rangers had taken a swift goal-kick and the ball was already being worked upfield with NINE Celtic in the other half of the field!

Lachford and Frank Munro were the only players defending against six Rangers men and the ball was eventually poked over the line by a sheepish-looking John Greig. Celtic refused to kick-off again. It was bad enough not to get the expected penalty, but to lose another goal was a dreadful blow.

The ball was recentred about three times and three times it was kicked away by disgusted players. However, they were persuaded to kick-off again when manager Jock Stein sent Neilly Mochan, the trainer, onto the field to tell them to get on with it. Typically, Gordon waved Mochan away!

Johannes Edvaldsson scored a well-deserved goal after the break and then Celtic had an even better penalty claim turned down when Alex MacDonald clearly handled a scoring shot from Roy Aitken on the line. Again the Celts protested . . . and again the referee ignored them. Press photographs the next day ruled out any argument . . . MacDonald DID handle the ball.

Aitken then smashed a shot against Kennedy and followed up to hammer the ball against the post. Celtic still tried hard to get that equaliser. A goal just had to come. And it did. At the other end. The left hand side of the defence was exposed — as it has been so often this season — by a simple throw-in from Alex Miller. It went to Sandy Jardine, getting in behind the defence, and his half-hit shot was fumbled by Latchford and Derek Parlane had time to say thanks before rolling the ball into the net. And that was that!

Three games, three defeats. Happy new year, Celtic! Okay, they were unlucky. But they must still face facts. Celtic, without Dalglish, are a fairly ordinary team. I know they have been unfortunate with injuries to skipper Danny McGrain and experienced sweeper Pat Stanton, but up front they have more than their fair share of problems.

It doesn't say much for Celtic's standard of today when you consider that one of their better players at the moment, Johannes Edvaldsson, has been on the transfer list for almost four months and hasn't attracted even one single bid. That doesn't say much for the rest of them!

Frankly, there are first team men at Parkhead at the moment who wouldn't get places in some First Division sides. I won't name them . . . they have enough troubles. Things will improve when McGrain and Stanton come back and Alfie Conn starts to repay some of that £65,000 Stein gave Spurs for his services last year.

There is no doubt, though, that Celtic need at least one new face in their line-up. Stein has already said he will give some of his reserve youngsters their chance, but there doesn't seem to be a lot coming through at the moment. On the day the first team were losing to Rangers, the reserves were being walloped 3-0 by the Ibrox Colts at Parkhead.

Tommy Burns is one for the future, but Celtic need someone NOW. I have said it before and I'll probably say it again . . . the man they need is Tommy Craig, of Newcastle. They had a chance to buy him when he was with Sheffield Wednesday, but they missed it. Newcastle stepped in, paid something like £110,000 and he will cost at least double that in today's market.

He would be worth it. He could get this team ticking over again. I believe Tom McAdam will prove to be a good buy, but Joe Craig has gone off the boil for some reason or another. He is in a key position and if the goals don't come he can't expect to be selected every week.

Scottish Notebook by ALEX GORDON

News from Switzerland by ARTHUR ROTMIL

Grasshoppers step out of the shadows

THE toast of Switzerland is the Grasshopper Club of Zurich, who at the winter break stood proudly on top of the table and has reached the quarter-finals of the UEFA-Cup for the first time in its history. Of course, the "Hoppers" boast a fine tradition and a long line of success unequalled here at domestic level. They have won the championship of their country a record 16 times and have taken the Cup on 13 occasions, which is also the best total in the land.

Now, under the skilful guidance of their manager, the German Helmuth Johannsen, Grasshoppers have at last stepped out of the shadows of their neighbours FC Zurich, whose dominating role in Swiss football over the past decade is obviously drawing to a close. The young and revitalised Grasshopper Club (GC) are also beginning to draw bigger crowds to the Hardturm-stadium and their recent exploits in the UEFA tournament have captured the imagination of the fans.

After that marvellous 5-1 home win over Inter Bratislava in the Second Round, the blue-and-whites demolished Dynamo Tbilisi by 4-0 — and this was the team which had just finished as runners up in the recently completed Russian League championship. What makes their run of success even more remarkable is the fact that since July Grasshoppers have played 44 matches. This is more than any club, even in England, for instance, had played till mid-December, but remember that most of the Swiss players are just part-timers.

Their incredible programme included 18 League games; 3 in the SFV-Cup; 1 in the League Cp; 6 in the UEFA-Cup; 8 in the International Cup; 2 in a tournament in Barcelona; 2 in a tournament in Bern and 4 other friendlies.

Swift breaks

The team plays a typical modern waiting game, based on swift breaks from defence. The "Hoppers" have been criticised for their style by some experts in the French-speaking part of the country, where the Latins like their soccer more instinctive and improvised, not scientifically drilled, but there is little doubt that the Zurich team are highly effective and the results speak for themselves.

GC boast a good defence with goalkeeper Berbig in fine form just now, a German libero in Jonny Hey (28), a professional who played for two clubs in Berlin, then for MSV Duisburg and recently for Arminia Bielefeld and in midfield the "work horse" Wehrli, who links well with André "Bigi" Meyer, now established in the national team as the schemer-in-chief.

The forwards include the fast and tricky Elsener, the technically outstanding Italian-born Ponte and Suker, whose goal scoring exploits have also secured him a place in the national side. If they continue where they left off in 1977, the Grasshoppers could win the championship and they'll certainly surprise a team, or two in the UEFA-Cup.

The GC outfit were spending part of their winter pause in America, where they were due to play six games in Mexico, Acapulco, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Salvador and Guatemala.

Other Swiss clubs to undertake tours abroad were Lausanne who are spending ten days in Italy and are playing there twice; Servette Geneva travel first to Germany and then to Hong Kong for three games; FC Zurich are planning a training camp in Spain or Italy.

Manager Timo Konietzka will first spend some time in Dortmund to study training methods with the club where he made a name for himself as a player. The FC Basel travel to the Far East (Singapore and Bangkok); Sion will journey to Morocco, while St. Gallen are spending ten days in Spain. Only four clubs from the First Division are staying at home.

When the Swiss League broke up in mid-December Grasshoppers were leading the field with 28 points from 18 games, followed by Lausanne (27 pts.), Servette (25), Basel and Zurich (23 each) and FC Sion (20). Leading goal scorers: Künzli (Lausanne) 14; Chivers (Servette), Elsener (Grasshoppers) and Guillaume (Lausanne) each 10.

Gates were disappointing reaching only 5,593 on average per match. Last year at this stage the figure was 6,412. Best supported club were Servette with 8,444 per game, followed by FC Zurich 6,933, Basel 6,833 and Grasshoppers 6,533.

Rumours that Martin Chivers may be leaving Servette and that he is available at £25,000 have not been confirmed by the Geneva club. Servette will most likely wait till the end of the season, simply because until then they are not allowed to engage new players.

At such a low price Chivers could attract a number of English League clubs needing experienced men and already Norwich City were reported to be interested, to sign the "sleeping giant", as he is called in Switzerland.

For the national manager Roger Vonlanthen the biggest disappointment was the draw for the European Championship. Switzerland had applied to stage the finals of the competition, for which they would have been qualified automatically as hosts. Instead they were paired with Holland, Poland, East Germany and Iceland!

The final tournament was given to Italy (although they staged it already in 1968), just because the UEFA committee apparently did not want England to have it — on account of the hooliganism, as a respected member told a journalist colleague of mine in Switzerland!

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The United States national team.

COLIN JOSE reports from North America

WITH one or two notable exceptions the performance of the United States national team in international competition is singularly poor. Those exceptions of course are the finals of the 1930 and 1950 World Cups when the Americans sprung major surprises in reaching the semi-finals in 1930 and their never-to-be-forgotten defeat of England in 1950.

In 1930 in Montevideo the Americans beat Belgium and Paraguay by identical scores of 3-0 to reach the semi-finals where they crashed 6-1 to Argentina in a game marred by injuries to two of their key players. In 1950 after losing the opening game to Spain 3-1 the U.S. then went on to defeat England 1-0 in Belo Horizonte, Brazil in one of the most memorable upsets in soccer history. The U.S. then lost its final game 5-2 to Chile and thus were eliminated.

The line-ups in that England game against the United States are worth noting if only to indicate that it was by no means a weakened England team that took the field that day.

United States: Borghi (St. Louis Simpkins); Keough (St. Louis McMahon's), Maca (Brooklyn Hispano); McIlvenny (Philadelphia Nationals), Columbo (St. Louis Simpkins), Bahr (Philadelphia Nationals); Wallace (St. Louis Simpkins), Pariani (St. Louis Simpkins), Gaetjens (New York Brookhatten), J. Souza (Ponte Delgada), E. Souza (Ponta Delgada).

England: Williams (Wolves); Ramsey (Tottenham Hotspur), Aston (Manchester United); Wright (Wolves), Hughes (Liverpool), Dickenson (Portsmouth); Finney (Preston North End), Mortensen (Blackpool), Bentley (Chelsea), Mannion (Middlesbro), Mullen (Wolves).

Haitian born Joe Gaetjens scored the winning goal for the United States from a pass by Walter Bahr and thus secured for himself a unique spot in soccers record book.

But ever since that day the United States has had very little to be happy about in the performances of its national team. Paired more often than not in a qualifying group with Mexico and Canada the Americans have failed to reach the final rounds since their upset in 1950.

With just one place allocated to the CONCACAF region and with the Mexicans being for so long the dominant nation in that area the U.S. has only rarely got past the first qualifying round. In fact their record against Mexico in full internationals is disastrous with only one win in 21 games and that win came 43 years ago in Rome in a qualifying game for the 1934 World Cup.

But since 1972 things have been slowly changing in the United States as the game has progressed from being among the "also rans" in the total sports picture to a position where it is beginning to emerge as a possible challenger to baseball, American football, golf, ice hockey and basketball for the sports dollar.

As the North American Soccer League has grown in strength and begun to stress the development of the American player then the national team has grown in importance, not only as a vehicle for giving American players much needed experience but also as a means of promoting the game as a whole.

Now instead of putting a national team together once every four years to compete in the World Cup as used to be the case, with the players gathering on the night before the game and walking on to the field as virtual strangers, the team is playing a number of internationals each year.

This past year (1977) the U.S. national team played a total of 12 games between August 28 and October 16 of which seven were won, two drawn and three lost. The calibre of the opposition was of course generally mediocre by the best standards but none-the-less a team made up of American-born or developed players (as distinct from the teams of the past which were mostly made up of ex-Europeans who had become American citizens) was giving an encouraging account of itself.

The programme this year called for the United States to compete in the "Soccer Festival of the Americas" which was staged in and around New York city. The opposition was three of the lesser known South American club teams: Universitaria of Ecuador, Alianza of Peru and the Millionarios of Colombia, the latter of course best known for enticing foreign players to a rebel league in the 1950's.

Universitaria were beaten 3-0 by the young U.S. team who then went on to beat the Millionarios 3-1 and finally Alianza 2-1 to win the tournament.

This was followed almost immediately by a tour to El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico. Playing before 58,000 fans in San Salvador the U.S. won the opening game against El Salvador 2-1 on goals from Rick Davis and Greg Villa. A second game against a select team from El Salvador ended with a 1-0 win for the U.S. team.

In Guatemala the United States played and lost 3-1 to a Guatemala selection before playing their second full international of the tour against Guatemala in Guatemala City and losing 2-0.

Two days after the game in Guatemala City the Americans played Mexico before 40,000 fans in Monterrey and lost 3-0 in their poorest performance of the year, and perhaps this game indicates the status of the U.S. national team in the international spectrum at this time.

Back in the United States the team met El Salvador in Los Angelos with the game

POOR YEAR FOR USA

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL RECORD

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Argentina	2	0	0	2	1	12
Belgium	1	1	0	0	3	0
Bermuda	4	3	0	1	9	6
Brazil	1	0	0	1	3	4
Canada	15	6	2	7	30	28
Chile	1	0	0	1	2	5
China	3	2	1	0	4	2
Costa Rica	1	0	0	1	1	3
Cuba	3	1	1	1	8	8
Eire	1	0	0	1	1	3
El Salvador	2	1	1	0	2	1
England	4	1	0	3	5	24
Guatemala	1	0	0	1	0	2
Haiti	12	4	3	5	15	15
Honduras	2	1	1	0	2	1
Iceland	1	0	0	1	2	3
Israel	4	0	1	3	4	12
Italy	2	0	0	2	1	17
Mexico	21	1	3	17	17	65
Northern Ireland	1	0	0	1	0	5
Norway	2	0	1	1	1	12
Paraguay	1	1	0	0	3	0
Poland	8	2	1	5	7	25
Scotland	1	0	0	1	0	6
Spain	1	0	0	1	1	3
Sweden	1	1	0	0	3	2
Totals	96	25	15	56	125	264

The above record is for full internationals and does not include the United States record in amateur internationals.

ending in a scoreless draw and this was followed by three games against the Peoples Republic of China. The Chinese who had earlier surprised the New York Cosmos in China were beaten twice by the young Americans 1-0 in Atlanta and 2-1 in San Francisco with the third game played in Washington D.C. ending in a 1-1 draw.

This past year as in 1976 the United States team has been coached by Walter Chyzowych who coached a number of U.S. club teams before becoming the national team coach on July 8, 1976. During the first round qualifying games for the 1978 World Cup played in 1976 the United States was narrowly eliminated by Mexico and Canada. But wisely Chyzowych retained the successful players from that team adding some of the better players to emerge in 1977 and giving them the vitally needed international experience.

In the past eight years the United States has developed some fine goalkeepers and the two who shared the goalkeeping duties this year, Arnie Mausser of the Vancouver Whitecaps and Alan Mayer of the Las Vegas Quicksilver are no exception. The team is also quite well served at the back with the back four being variously made up of Don Droege, Jim McAlister, Steve Pecher, Dave D'Errico, Glenn Myernick, Steve Ralbovsky and Jim Pollihan.

But if the United States is producing capable defenders and fine goalkeepers at this time it has yet to produce the kind of midfield players and strikers needed for international competition. In particular there is a shortage of midfield players forcing Chyzowych to use players in midfield who are usually strikers in club football. True he did have Al Trost who is perhaps the best midfield player produced in the U.S. in some considerable time but Trost was only available on a limited basis.

Up front Rick Davis shows a lot of promise coming into the national team straight out of high school without ever playing as a professional while others such as Greg Villa, Fred Pereira, George Nanchoff and Gary Etherington are the new breed of American player having emerged with the explosion of the game at the grass roots level.

The players on the current United State national team are almost completely unknown in their own country and overshadowed within their own clubs by the imports from Europe and South America. Some rarely make the starting line up.

But they do mark the beginning of a new era for U.S. soccer an era in which hopefully better and better American players will emerge to take the place of imported stars thus building a national team which could compete on an equal footing with the stronger national teams of the world.

Puzzled

In the meantime one is still puzzled by the absence of Kyle Rote from the national team and also Werner Roth and Bobby Smith. Rote the one genuine well known American star had a fine season in 1977 and finished among the leading goalscorers in the NASL but for the second year in a row was overlooked when the national team was selected.

Roth, the captain of the New York Cosmos, last played for his country in 1975 and surely his experience would be of value to the team, while Bobby Smith was outstanding in the World Cup team of 1976 but was not selected this year.

Perhaps all three players will come back into the national team picture as coach Chyzowych works towards the 1982 World Cup when it is to be hoped that the United States will not once again be drawn in the same group as Mexico and Canada. Out of the eight World Cup competitions played since the second world war the U.S. and Mexico have been paired in seven of them (the exception being for 1970 when Mexico was the host nation) while Canada and the U.S. have clashed four times.

One wonders what the reaction would be to a similar sequence of games between England, Scotland and Wales with only one nation getting to the finals each time? Surely it is time for a change.

The 24 players who saw some action for the United States in 1977 but not necessarily in the seven full internationals played were:

Goalkeepers: Arnie Mausser (Vancouver Whitecaps), Alan Mayer (Las Vegas Quicksilver), Eugene DuChateau (Connecticut Bicentennials).

Defenders: Glenn Myernick (Dallas Tornado), Jim McAlister (Seattle Sounders), Dave D'Errico (Minnesota Kicks), Steve Pecher (Dallas Tornado), Jim Pollihan (Rochester Lancers), Don Droege (Rochester Lancers), Steve Ralbovsky (Chicago Sting), Santiago Formoso (New York Cosmos).

Midfield: Boris Bandov (Tampa Bay Rowdies), Mike Flater (Minnesota Kicks), Al Trost (St. Louis Stars), Tony Bellinger (Dallas Tornado), Colin Fowles (Fort Lauderdale Strikers), Ane Mihailovich (Los Angeles Aztecs).

Forwards: Rick Davis (New York Cosmos), Tony Donlic (New York Cosmos), Gary Etherington (New York Cosmos), George Nanchoff (Fort Lauderdale Strikers), Fred Pereira (Connecticut Bicentennials) and Greg Villa (Minnesota Kicks).

Only one member of the squad did not play in the NASL in 1977 and that was Miguel Lopez who was brought in at the last moment to play against Mexico. Lopez played for the Los Angeles Aztecs in 1976. The Connecticut and St. Louis clubs listed above no longer exist and the players will be with new clubs for 1978.

There was also sadness for the U.S. national team in 1977 as Miro Rys one of the brightest young stars in American soccer was killed in an automobile accident in West Germany. Rys, who was invited to play for the national team again this year as he did in 1976, instead turned down the offer and signed for Hertha Berlin. Born in Kladno, Czechoslovakia Miro learned his soccer in the U.S. and played for the Chicago Sting and the Los Angeles Aztecs in the NASL. He was killed shortly after arriving in West Germany.

'BRING BACK SAYS WALTER

News from Italy

IT'S ALL happening for Milan skipper Gianni Rivera now — top of the table, missing a vital penalty, crossing swords with one-time team-mate Giovanni Trapattoni, and being suggested for a recall to the World Cup squad!

The "bring back Rivera" idea came from Walter Mandelli, the Turin industrialist who headed Italy's official World Cup party in Mexico in 1970, when the *Azzurri* reached the final only to lose 4-1 to Brazil amid ridiculous internal bickering.

One of the features of Italy's World Cup campaign was to substitute Sandro Mazzola with Rivera at half-time in each game because it was said they couldn't play together.

Mandelli, who quit after Mexico, had never explained before why Rivera played only the last six minutes of the final. Now he revealed for the first time that the decision to ignore Rivera was made by team manager Ferruccio Valcareggi under pressure from the other players.

Didn't Mandelli try to change his mind, for the good of the team? "No, of course not. I was not the manager. I could not interfere. It was nothing to do with me."

That, nevertheless, didn't stop Mandelli insisting that Rivera's class and skill could be valuable to the *Azzurri* in Argentina — not necessarily against teams such as Holland and West Germany, but against teams who would provide a less rigorous physical test.

Not that this was a suggestion which met with the approval of Trapattoni, trainer of champions Juventus and a Milan team-mate of Rivera in the sixties. Rivera had criticised the *Azzurri's* recent form, blaming the defeat by England and the poor showing against Luxembourg on the fact that Italy were relying so heavily on the below-form Juventus *bloc*.

"How can Gianni say that?" answered Trapattoni. "I can't remember that he was so brilliant in the World Cups in 1962, 1966, 1970 or 1974."

No good

But he probably gained greater satisfaction when Juventus gradually pulled up week by week on Milan to join them level on points at the top of *Serie A*. It did Milan's cause no good that while a late Marco Tardelli header provided Juve with a 1-0 win over Inter in the San Siro fog, Milan were losing 1-0 to Torino.

The goal was a fine header from Paolino Pulici, who had some uncomplimentary remarks to make beforehand about Rivera and Milan's right to be at the top of the table. Then, with 15 minutes to go, Milan were

Renato Zaccarelli of Italy.

Bearzo with

ENZO BEARZOT, Italy's national team manager, made a trip to Argentina to have a look at the World Cup venues and possible accommodation, after the victory over Luxembourg ensured he would be taking his team back.

But he was home in time to make sure that Italy finished the year as they began it, with a win over Belgium.

This friendly, just before Christmas, ended in a 1-0 win in Liege for an Italian team showing a number of changes from the one which played the World Cup-ties.

For a start there was no Zoff, no Facchetti, no Bettega or Graziani. And team captain was Fiorentina's Giancarlo Antognoni. And how he lived up to his new responsibility. Not only was he the best player on the pitch, he also scored the only goal with a 25-yard drive from a free kick midway through the second half.

RIVERA' MANDELLI

by Keir Radnedge

awarded a penalty. Rivera walked up to take it, his fans sure that this would provide at least a point against a Torino who had been forced to go into battle without the injured Castellini, Mozzini, Zaccarelli and suspended Pecci.

Instead reserve goalkeeper Giuliano Terraneo dived to the left to stop Rivera's spot kick. Milan protested that Terraneo had moved — he admitted as much later — but those were protests made in vain and Milan had dropped two valuable points.

That provided Torino some satisfaction after the surprise home defeat by Bastia which put them out of the UEFA Cup. Many Torino fans had come forward before the game to help clear snow off the pitch, and must have considered their heroes' display poor reward.

It was a defeat which means Italy are left with only champions Juventus left in Europe — a state of affairs Helenio Herrera, now earning his money as a journalist, blames on the fact that foreigners are barred.

Yet while Herrera and Juve president Giampiero Boniperti call for the borders to be reopened, league president Franco Carraro is busy fighting off the Common Market attempt to have member countries opening their football to all EEC citizens.

Herrera's old club, Internazionale, struggle on in mid-table, denying reports that senior adviser Sandro Mazzola will be recalled as a player.

While Inter were drawing 0-0 against Verona, Juventus and Torino were also playing out a scoreless draw — a terrible game with 86 free kicks and which, according to one stop-watch expert, provided only 44 minutes' actual football.

Milan, however, failed to take advantage, against Perugia. Indeed they were 2-0 down early on, and it was only thanks to a Rivera penalty shortly before the end that they salvaged a point.

The following week saw Torino-Milan and Inter-Juventus. And the fact that it was Tardelli who won the game for Juve underlines their problem in attack. Of 21 goals so far, four have been own goals, and top scorer, Roberto Boninsegna, has scored just four times — one of those a penalty.

No wonder Juve are casting envious eyes on Kevin Keegan and Klaus Fischer.

Promotion

However the answer may already be partly in their hands. He's 21-year-old Paolo Rossi, the young centre forward who exploded last season in the second division, brought Lanerossi Vicenza promotion, and has now taken them to within a point of the leaders.

Rossi was a Juventus youth player, and they still own a half-share in him, which they may well try to realise at the season's end. Rossi has scored 11 goals, which puts him equal top of the charts with Beppe Savoldi, who did his own reputation no harm with four goals in Napoli's 5-0 hammering of struggling Foggia.

Not that Juve are the only team with attacking problems. That much was illustrated one horrific week when the eight *Serie A* games produced a mere *nine* goals, and (would you believe?) seven draws!

Even Milan coach Nils Liedholm says: "If I could have Graziani from Torino, I could guarantee us the title," as his team continue relying for goals on full back Aldo Maldera.

At the bottom of the table, it looks grim for Fiorentina, and even worse for Bologna. With three teams to go down Bologna are bottom with five points, Pescara have seven, Fiorentina eight and Foggia 10.

Already two of those teams have changed their trainers, Bologna recalling Bruno Pesaola after just a few weeks, and now Fiorentina have ended the three-year reign of Carlo Mazzone.

Mazzone's departure followed a 1-0 home defeat by a Lazio team so mixed-up in morale that they had gone on strike for 24 hours earlier in the week in protest at a delay in paying bonuses they had been due for months.

Marco Tardelli.

As usual in these cases Mazzone had only a couple of weeks before being given a vote of confidence by the directors. But then, president Ugolino Ugolini had resigned himself a few weeks before. Mazzone's successor, for the time being and just to confuse matters, is named Mario Mazzoni — and he was Mazzone's assistant.

No wonder Fiorentina are all mixed up!

At least Mazzoni's takeover saw their first home win of the season, 1-0 against Napoli. And there was further good news with the return to fitness of international full back Moreno Roggi, who has been out of action for 16 months with a broken leg.

Meanwhile there has been one more change of trainer — this time in the second division. Luis Suarez, former Spanish international and midfield general of Inter in the mid-sixties, has taken over struggling Como. He's the fourth new man to take over in the second division since the season began.

Luciano Castellini.

tfinishes a victory!

Later still he shot against a post in a performance which was Italy's most promising for some time.

Roma's Paolo Conti was in goal, with Torino's Patrizio Sala replacing Romeo Benetti in midfield, and elder brother Claudio Sala ousting Juventus' Franco Causio. On top of that Vicenza's Paolo Rossi jumped the centre-forward queue which includes Genoa's Roberto Pruzzo, Perugia's Walter Novellino and Napoli's Beppe Savoldi, to come in for his international debut.

Belgium: Pfaff — Gerets, Meeuws, Renquin, Broos (Baecke half-time) — Vandereycken (Vercauteren h-t), Cools, Coeck — Cluytens, Cordiez (Verheyen 64), Dardenne.

Italy: Paolo Conti — Scirea — Gentile, Manfredonia, Maldera — P. Sala, Tardelli, Antognoni — C. Sala, Rossi, Pulici.

Now Italy face two more friendlies — against France in Naples on February 8, and against Spain in Madrid on February 25.

Club Brugge stu learn their les

Club Focus by Keir R

WHEN Belgium's Club Brugge came to Anfield at the end of season 1975-76 to face Liverpool in the UEFA Cup Final first leg a wheel had turned full circle — for it was by English students that Brugge had been founded back in 1891.

And for much of that Anfield night — Brugge's first appearance in a European final — it was the English side who were made to look the students.

Inside 12 minutes Brugge were 2-0 ahead thanks to slack play in the Liverpool defence and sharp finishing from veteran centre forward Raoul Lambert and Julien Cools. However Bob Paisley's men eventually hit back to win 3-2 — albeit thanks to a disputed penalty which Kevin Keegan had to take three times — and take the Cup thanks to a 1-1 draw in Belgium.

Even then Brugge gave them a scare, going ahead through an early Lambert penalty before Keegan denied them with a goal from a free kick.

But that performance was enough to show that the students had made a great deal of progress since the club was founded by the pupils of an English school in the city before the turn of the century.

Followers of international club soccer may already be wondering which is correct — to refer to the club by the French title, F.C. Brugeois, or the Flemish, Club Brugge. Both are used in dual-language Belgium, but since the club themselves use the style Club Brugge Kon. Voetbalvereniging (Royal Brugge Football Club) it seems only reasonable to take their word for it!

Brugge are one of the earliest clubs founded in Belgium. In fact the FA wasn't founded until 1895, and Brugge's official 'number' is No.3 — No. 2 doesn't exist any longer, and No. 1 belongs to Antwerp FC. Brugge were founder members of the Belgian league, whose first championship was held in that year of 1895.

Ten clubs took part — the others being Antwerp, La Gantoise, Athletic and Running Club Brussels, Liege, Leopold Club, Racing Brussels, Sporting Brussels, Union d'Ixelles and Verviers.

Brugge's local rivals, KSV Cercle, had been founded in 1894 but weren't that ambitious so young. In fact only seven teams completed the championship which was won by Liege, with Antwerp second. Brugge finished sixth, and were thus placed in the second division which was set up the following year.

In 1900 they earned promotion — for the first, but not the last, time — but played a generally quiet role until winning the championship for the first time in the opening season after the first world war, 1919-20. After that Brugge's fortunes slumped and it wasn't until the start of the 1960s that they re-established themselves as a first division force after four times being relegated in the years which followed that lone title triumph.

The final turning point came in 1967. Brugge finished runners-up in the league to Anderlecht and that was enough to put them into Europe for the first time, in the Fairs Cup. It was also the springboard for a remarkable run in the domestic competitions, for in the past 11 years Brugge have been out of the top two only three times — finishing fifth in 1969 and 1975, and fourth in 1974. Apart from those years they have been champions in 1973, 1976 and 1977 and runners-up in 1967, 1968, 1970, 1971 and 1972.

As if that wasn't enough they have won the Cup — created in the mid-1950s — in 1968, 1970 and then for a third time last summer to become only the second club (Anderlecht were the first) to complete the double.

In 1968 Brugge beat Beerschot to win the Cup, but it was a dramatic affair. After extra time the teams were level at 1-1. The first series of penalties saw them finish all square at 4-4, with Brugge finally squeking ahead 3-2 after the second set of five.

In 1970 there was no such trouble. Second division Daring were thrashed 6-1, but last season's final couldn't have been tougher.

Fought back

Anderlecht, Belgium's greatest post-war club, were the rivals, and were 2-0 up inside 15 minutes. Brugge fought back, but Anderlecht were still 3-2 in front with less than half an hour to go. Then Roger Davies struck. The English centre forward had cost £150,000 from Derby a year before and had already proved his potential in topping Brugge's league scoring charts, with 16 goals.

Now he climaxed a brilliant solo run with the equalising goal, and then, with seven minutes to go, hit the winner from a corner. Sadly his success did nothing to endear him to Austrian coach Ernst Happel, who had complained loudly and publicly on and off throughout the season that Davies had been bought by the directors, not on Happel's advice, and that any more signings behind his back would force him to resign.

Happel had made his name as a player at centre-back for Rapid Vienna. He even achieved the distinction of a hat-trick against Real Madrid at their height — with two free kicks and a penalty — before ending his career in France with the much-lamented Racing Club de Paris.

He returned to Rapid as coach and then took Feyenoord of Rotterdam to the Champions' Cup and world club cup in 1970. Happel joined Brugge in 1973, taking over from Dutchman Leo Canjels, who had just steered them to the championship. Now, of course, he is poised to take Holland to Argentina for the World Cup Finals — a dual role which has earned him some enemies in Belgium's soccer hierarchy.

Not that Happel is a stranger to controversy. The Davies saga illustrated that. Before Christmas Brugge went to Derby to play a testimonial game for ex-England stopper Roy McFarland. Derby's captain wanted the game against Brugge because Davies's presence would increase interest; but the weekend before Davies and Happel had a training ground altercation when Davies discovered he had been dropped from the league team.

Happel immediately landed him with a week's suspension, and no amount of persuasion by Derby of Brugge officials could make him change his mind. Davies was restricted to an appearance at the interval to wave to the crowd, who were told he was injured. This was the final straw in the Happel-Davies business, and a couple of weeks later — despite Brugge's presence in the Champions' Cup quarter finals — he was sold back to England, to Leicester.

In the past 10 years Brugge have shown themselves ever-ready to look abroad to strengthen their team, despite the success of their own youth programme. In 1968 they signed an unknown Dutchman, Rob Rensenbrink, from DWS Amsterdam, eventually selling him to Anderlecht, with whom he has achieved world-wide fame.

Another Dutchman was Wietze Veenstra, from Go-Ahead Deventer. He joined Brugge in 1970, stayed two years, and then moved on to become a key player in the RWD Molenbeek championship team of 1974-75. While Veenstra was going, Brugge signed Reinier 'Nico' Rijnders, from European champions Ajax Amsterdam. Tragically Rijnders suffered a heart attack in a game against Liege in November 1972 and had to quit soccer. He died 18 months ago.

But also in 1972 Brugge signed their most successful foreigner, Ulrik Le Fevre, the Dane who had spent the previous three years with Borussia Moenchengladbach in West Germany. Le Fevre's skill, speed and experience were vital ingredients in Brugge's progress to the 1976 UEFA Cup Final. He is now back in Denmark, with his original club, Vejle.

Rensenbrink hasn't been the only player to go on from Brugge to greater things. Ruud Geels spent a year or two with Brugge before settling down with Ajax to become the scourge of the Dutch league, and Belgian defender Erwin van den Daele did a sound job with Brugge before leaving for Anderlecht.

udents son!

dnedge

Johnny Thio and Pierre Carteus were outstanding Belgian players with Brugge in the late sixties and early seventies. They have since faded from the limelight, but Brugge's star of 10 years ago is still as bright as ever, despite a career scarred by one niggling injury after another.

Lambert, nicknamed the Lion of Flanders and born on October 20, 1944, joined Brugge as a 12-year-old — the club run 10 youth teams — and made his senior debut in 1962-63. Since then only injury and illness have kept him out of the team and restricted him to 32 appearances for Belgium at senior level.

His one remaining ambition is to figure in a Champions' Cup-winning side — as long as that means Brugge. Over the years he has turned down lucrative offers from other Belgian and foreign clubs and two and a half years ago was granted a testimonial after topping 400 appearances with the club. Fast strong and a good header of the ball, Lambert made his international debut against France back in 1966 and has a proud record of never having had a yellow or red card waved in his face.

He remains Brugge's senior player, and at 33 is two years older than right back and club captain Alfons Bastijns. Bastijns has played 250 times for Brugge, but scoring — understandably — only a dozen goals, compared with Lambert's 200. Bastijns joined Brugge from Racing White in 1967.

That was the first step towards the defence which lines up today, though it is only thanks to some astute searching in other countries that Brugge were able to complete the unit.

Goalkeeper Birger Jensen was signed in 1973 from Odense of Copenhagen, while sweeper Edy Krieger — a handy man with a free kick around the penalty box — was signed in the summer of 1975 from Wacker Innsbruck. The Austrian was one of the key players in assuring his country's return to the World Cup Finals after a 20-year absence. But he will miss the first game in Argentina because of suspension after being booked twice in the qualifiers.

Centre-back Georges Leekens was signed in 1972 from Crossing Schaarbeek and left back Jozef Volders the same year from Anderlecht.

In midfield Paul Courant came from Liege and Daniel Decubber from Union Royale in 1975 to partner the experienced Julien Cools, probably the most consistent midfielder Belgium have at the moment. And that is not to forget 24-year-old Rene Vandereycken (all one word), who celebrated his European debut with a hat-trick against Lyon a couple of years ago.

Vandereycken is a product of the Brugge youth scheme, just like Dirk Sanders, a play-anywhere reserve. And on the substitutes' bench are also a couple of big-money players, such as goalkeeper Leen Barth, the Dutchman from Anderlecht, and also occasionally Jan Simoen, the striker who was top scorer in Belgium for most of last season while with Ostend.

It is this depth in their first-team squad which has Brugge worthy of a place in the Champions' Cup quarter finals for a second year in succession — a far cry from their early hesitant days in Europe.

In 1967-68 they went down to Sporting Lisbon (0-0, 1-2) in the first round of the Fairs Cup, and the following year also fell at the first hurdle in the Cup-winners' Cup. This time their opponents were West Bromwich Albion, and Brugge went out (3-1, 0-2) after a bad-tempered two games.

In 1969-70 Brugge actually progressed into the second round of the Fairs Cup, beating Spain's Sabadell (0-2, 5-1), but then fell to Ujpest Dozsa of Hungary (5-2, 0-3) after suffering a bad attack of complacency, having won the first leg convincingly.

Back in the Cup-winners' Cup in 1970-71 they beat Kickers Offenbach (1-2, 2-0) and FC Zurich (2-0, 2-3) before going out in the quarter finals to eventual winners Chelsea. Brugge won 2-0 at home, but lost 4-0 at Stamford Bridge.

Zeljeznicar Sarajevo ousted Brugge in the UEFA Cup first round in 1971-72 (0-3, 3-1), and the following season they beat Atvidaberg (5-3, 1-2) only to go down immediately to Porto (0-3, 3-2). But Brugge found their consolation in winning the championship, and thus earning a place for the first time in the Champions' Cup.

Not that it did them much good. Again they crashed before the quarter finals. Having crushed Floriana of Malta 8-0 (Lambert three, Carteus two) and 2-0, they faced Basel of Switzerland. It was a tie well within their capabilities, but after wasting chance after chance they won the first leg at home only 2-1.

The second leg was explosive. Basel led 3-2 at half-time, but at that point Brugge were still hanging on to a quarter final chance thanks to the away goals rule. Yet despite a hat-trick from the ever-willing Lambert, they eventually lost the match 6-4 and the tie 7-6!

The upsets continued in the league, Brugge finished fourth and dropped out of Europe for a year. But peculiarly, such are the ways in which teams can qualify for European adventure, they went back into the UEFA Cup a year later after finishing *fifth*!

And this chance they didn't waste. Lyon (3-4, 3-0), Ipswich (0-3, 4-0), Roma (1-0, 1-0), Milan (2-0, 1-2) and Hamburg (1-1, 1-0) were all tough rivals to turn over on the way to that unlucky and unpredictable final with Liverpool.

Of their 20 goals in that run to their first European final Lambert and Vandereycken each scored five.

And suddenly Brugge had established themselves as a team to be feared in Europe, going straight from the UEFA Cup Final into the 1976-77 Champions' Cup. True, they had lost former Antwerp forward Roger Van Gool, sold for a Belgian record of £200,000 to Köln, but Davies was a handy player to take his place and this time Brugge reached the quarter finals with few problems — beating Steeua Bucharest (2-1, 1-1) and **Real Madrid** (0-0, 2-0).

But the quarter final against Borussia Moenchengladbach was a different matter. Shortly before the first leg they lost surprisingly 4-0 to lowly Waregem in the league, and then had Davies sent off in a 3-0 away win over RWD Molenbeek. Decubber suffered a broken leg, and Lambert pulled a hamstring.

Racing against time to be fit for the Champions' Cup first leg, Lambert broke down again in the pre-match warm-up in West Germany. Brugge nevertheless held on for a 2-2 draw and looked set for the semi-finals until ten minutes from the end of the second leg, when Borussia got the single goal which saw them one step further forward towards the final with Liverpool in Rome.

And what now? So far this season Brugge have reached the last eight again thanks to wins over Palloseura Kuopio (4-0, 5-2) and Panathinaikos (2-0, 0-1). But since Roger Davies scored four of those goals, will they have the firepower to go beyond the quarter finals?

CLUB BRUGGE — First-team squad

Name	Age	Nationality	Caps (A-B-Youth)
Goal:			
Birger JENSEN	26	Denmark	13-0-4
Leendert BARTH	26	Holland	0-8-30
Henri GOGNE	19	Belgium	0-0-0
Defence:			
Alfons BASTIJNS	31	Belgium	3-2-0
Georges LEEKENS	28	Belgium	2-2-0
Eduard KRIEGER	31	Austria	20-0-21
Jozef VOLDERS	28	Belgium	1-2-12
Gino MAES	21	Belgium	0-0-0
Joseph MAUSSEN	28	Belgium	0-0-0
Midfield:			
Julien COOLS	31	Belgium	14-0-0
Paul COURANT	28	Belgium	6-0-0
Daniel DECUBBER	23	Belgium	0-0-0
Dirk SANDERS	22	Belgium	0-8-6
Rene VANDEREYCKEN	24	Belgium	5-5-0
Forwards:			
Jan SORENSEN	22	Denmark	6-0-0
Raoul LAMBERT	33	Belgium	32-2-6
Jan SIMOEN	24	Belgium	0-0-0
Danny VAN DEN HENDE	18	Belgium	0-0-0
Bernard VERHEECKE	21	Belgium	0-10-3

Leslie Vernon reviews the Hungarian scene

HALF-WAY? ALMOST BUT NOT QUITE!

THE Great Referee in the Sky has so ordered that the first half of the Hungarian League season shall run to 18 matches while the second half will only contain 16! It was, of course, a decision made by the F.A., residing as far up as the third floor of an ancient building in Budapest, but I just couldn't resist a poetic opening to this informative piece.

The extra round was played at Christmas, mainly on skating-rink type pitches, in order to give more elbow room for national team preparations for the World Cup during the spring. It is quite extraordinary that qualification for the Finals should cause so much confusion, not only in Hungary, but practically every country so fortunate to be destined for Argentina.

I now offer a public apology to Mr. Alan Hardaker, an obviously much misunderstood man, whose fixture pile-ups used to make him look somewhat less than efficient. At least, in England, they have never had to postpone entire Cup competitions because the national team have achieved a measure of success.

But this is exactly the case in Italy, and a similar way out of the dilemma is contemplated in Spain and France.

However, mathematics be damned, and in this brief summing-up of the winter half of the Hungarian campaign, I shall regard the eighteen rounds as the dividing line. In any case, not a great deal happened in "extra-time" *vis-a-vis* the League table, which is pretty tight at the top — only two points separate the leading five teams.

These are the front runners: Ujpest Dozsa (26 points). A pretty meagre haul for topping the table in a far from vintage year. Dozsa were beaten by bottom team Szeged 6-2 in early December in an astonishing match, in which three of their players were sent-off.

Another point dropped against Diosgyor due to the suspension of the culprits gave their pursuers fresh heart. Zambo, back in the side, has been playing well. Torocsik can be quite sensational, Fazekas is still an above average forward. But the brave 3-3-4 can collapse like a pack of cards, and they lack a class goalkeeper.

Manager Varadi: "Our aim was to finish in the first three, so I am pleased with our League position. There were times when we missed six regulars due to injuries and suspension."

Videoton (25 points). Under new manager, Mihaly Lantos. After a sluggish start, this provincial team played the best football in Hungary. They remained unbeaten since October 1, and are top-scorers with 49 goals. If only they could discard their inferiority complex for good — they would be a fair bet for the title.

Lantos: "I programmed 20 points and we have five more. We scored six goals against Dozsa (6-4!) and beat Ferencvaros in Budapest 3-0. Our confidence is growing — it is only a question of preserving our present 'form' for the spring".

MTK-VM (25 points). Surprise packet of the season. This once famous club is back on the rails again, although they still lack outstanding players. But they were consistent, defensively very good, and enthusiastic. The bad old days of dissention and a dressing room dominated by cliques seems to be over at Hungaria-Korut.

Gyorgy Mezei, their young, very bright manager, said: "What do you expect from a new coach and a completely rebuilt side? The management would have been happy with a mid-table position. We have done better than that, that is why I am satisfied with all my players".

Honved (24 points). While the others faltered, the Army team plodded on to good effect. In Gujdar they have the best goalkeeper in the country, who has conceded only 14 goals in the 18 games. Pinter and Istvan Kocsis were the other aces in a side which still lacks conviction and class.

Lajos Tichy, manager: "Our target was a respectable position while we blooded younger players into the team. Now we are still in contention, and certainly well placed for a UEFA-Cup spot".

Vasas (24 points). After last season's championship success, this points' total must be regarded as disappointing. Varadi hasn't been scoring quite so freely, and the team had a "self-satisfied" look about them. If the players' ambitions are rekindled by new boss Ferenc Kovacs, they could still prove to have the best squad in Hungary.

Kovacs says: "It is unwise to draw weighty conclusions at half-time. We are still in a good position to hold on to the title, although we have dropped too many silly points at home for comfort. Torok, Istvan Kovacs and Varadi have been our best players so far in the campaign."

Tatabanya, after an excellent start, are now sixth with 22 points, and Ferencvaros are seventh with 20! A sorry balance sheet for the green-and-whites, and coach Jeno Dalnoki didn't hide his disappointment: "Before the season started we aimed at a place in the top three, a Cup semi-final appearance either at home or in the UEFA competition.

Then . . . then Nyilasi, Rab, Mucha and Magyar got injured, and we had to play without them for weeks. Our "new boys", with the exception of central striker, Szokolai, couldn't establish themselves in the first team. But I must confess that our attitude wasn't right either. On the other hand, we are only six points adrift, and I am confident that we shall still finish in the top three!" The last two places are occupied by Szeol (cruelly nicknamed "sehol" meaning "nowhere") and Kaposvar (nicknamed Kapottmar, meaning well beaten).

A piece of typical Hungarian gallows-humour at no extra cost to our readers! Both seem certain to leave the top division at the end of the season — good news for Szekesfehervar manager, the ex-goalkeeper Szentmihalyi, who took his no-hopers in his first season with them, four points clear of the relegation candidates.

This was the "team of the year", if we accept the marks given to each player after each game by a "Nepsport" reporter: Gaspar (MTK) — Torok (Vasas), Kocsis (Honved), Kereki (Bekescsaba), Magyar (Raba) — Pusztor (Bekescsaba), Pinter (Honved), Borso (MTK) — Majer (Videoton), Torocsik (Dozsa), Tieber (Videoton).

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SEPP MAIER

HE'S Germany's premier football goalkeeper, and has 78 international matches to his credit. Not only has he achieved acclaim and fame with the national team of the Federal Republic of Germany, he's also known many a competitive triumph with his own club, the famous Bayern Munich.

But that's not all there is to 33-year-old Josef-Dieter Maier, mostly addressed with the good old Bavarian name of Sepp. Maier is also the team's top banana when it comes to drumming up team spirit, playing pranks, and engaging in general slapstick jesting. The Bavarians call such a fellow an "Urviech", a designation that places him somewhere between the missing link and the abominable snowman in the realm of humour.

Helmut Schoen, coach of the national football team, praises these attributes in his clever goaltender: "His knack for clownery and jesting have made him an exciting contemporary, even for those who don't follow football."

Maier, who entered occupational life as a building-trade machinist, has since become the affluent owner of a complex of tennis courts. Some people are wont to place his humouristic skills on a level with the legendary Karl Valentin, who portrayed as his central character a scurrilous, hard-to-please fussbudget. Though Sepp imitated the great comedian during a television skit, he realizes that the comparison is unjustified: "The best I'm good for is a sex film at the most." Maier, obviously, is seldom at a loss for witticisms. "There are always two zanies on a football team: the left wing and the goalie," he asserts, poking fun at himself.

He also baffles autograph seekers with his signature, an "M" followed by what he describes as "two soft-boiled eggs" (Maier, you see, rhymes with "Eier", the German word for eggs). Zany Sepp also helped the now departed coach of Bayern Muenchen, Dettmar Cramer, to a fitting nickname. As Cramer towers a bare five feet five inches into the sky, Maier came up with the designation "running meter".

Most of the more elderly officials of the football establishment fear Maier's presence at banquets given on the occasion of matches of the national team. Maier has been known to surreptitiously place cake slices into the jacket pockets of functionaries or to have undone their shoe laces. It brings out Maier's adroitness with his fingers as well as his talents as a magician. He likes to do tricks with scarves, tomatoes, and playing cards.

Sepp doesn't readily defer to prominence, either. Last June, when the German national team went to Mexico for a friendship match, the German Federal President, Walter Scheel, who was visiting in Central America at the time, hosted a dinner for the team. In the dignified hall of the Camino Real Hotel in Mexico City Maier suddenly approached Scheel, sprinkled snuff on his right hand and invited the Bundespräsident to take a strong sniff of the pulverized tobacco. Sepp clearly took that round of laughs.

Others, though, can also tell of Maierian pranks they have been the victims of. A Munich journalist covering an international match in Buenos Aires. Sepp slipped a huge cobblestone into his suitcase. The reporter lugged this load about for quite a while before discovering that he had been had. Maier maintains his sense of humour even in the face of unruly crowds. Once, when a beer bottle landed near him, he remarked dryly: "Too bad it's empty. I could have used a full one now."

Surprising millions of viewers on German television in September, 1977, Sepp Maier (on right together with show star Peter Kraus) portrayed comedian Karl Valentin. The real Valentin, a native of Munich, is pictured left.

Real Madrid beat Atletico Madrid 4-2 in their recent derby match. Real goalkeeper Miguel Angel is pictured saving from an Atletico attack.

REAL LEAD ...WHILE ESPANOL LOOK TO HERRERA

MANAGERS and trainers are the inevitable casualties of the soccer battleground — and Spain has produced more than its quota already this season.

Real Madrid and Miljan Miljanic parted company after the first match of the season, then struggling Cadiz decided that though Enrique Mateos was good enough to take them up last season he wasn't up to the job in the first division.

Now two more men have been given their orders — Felipe Mesones having been sacked by bottom of the table Hercules of Alicante, and — biggest surprise of all — Espanol Barcelona have split with Jose Santamaria.

The Uruguayan-born coach, one of the outstanding defenders of the 1954 World Cup then the bulwark of Real Madrid's defence in their halcyon days, has been with Espanol for six and a half years and worked wonders keeping them not only in the first division, but among the most respected of rivals.

Not that Espanol were challenging for honours, but for a club who regularly have to sell their best players to keep the right side of liquidation, their record under Santamaria was an honourable one, and it'll be rough justice indeed if his hard work under difficult circumstances doesn't earn him one of the plum jobs inside another six months.

His replacement is Paraguayan Heriberto Herrera, the one-time Atletico Madrid stopper who did well with Juventus in Italy in the mid-sixties. Herrera's most recent appointment in Spain was with Valencia, who dismissed him in the middle of last season because he was too much of a disciplinarian (!).

His first match brought success — a 2-1 win over Hercules, where Benito Joanet, formerly

Molowny still plans to leave

LUIS MOLOWNY has scotched any ideas that his success with Real Madrid so far this season will change his mind about not wanting the manager's job on a long-term basis.

"I don't want to stay on," he said. "It makes me too nervous, sitting on the bench each week through a match. I'd rather be back coaching the young boys in the club."

So far though there has been no hint of who Madrid may turn to at the end of the season. Secretary Agustin Dominguez recently had a meeting in West Germany with Gunter Netzer and Köln boss Hennes Weisweiler, but has denied that this was any more than a social call.

Weisweiler, indeed, is set to sign a contract to stay with Köln — West German league leaders — for another couple of years, and it's hard to imagine that after his unpleasant stay at Barcelona he would be willing to return to Spain.

Meanwhile Madrid captain Pirri, who has just launched a television retail business, has already had to give away one set. After being injured in that murderous World Cup tie in Yugoslavia he told the party's doctor that he thought his ankle was broken.

"Nonsense," he was told, "it's only badly bruised." Pirri bet a television set the doctor was wrong — but no one was more pleased to hand over the prize.

Pirri has already been promised a more responsible role even than captain in Spain's plans for Argentina. For he will figure on the three-man committee to help and advise manager Ladislao Kubala — who has, incidentally, been offered a new two-year contract worth £60,000-a-year, taking him up to 1980.

Even a reasonable performance in the European championships will then be enough for him to carry on to the World Cup in Spain in 1982. Meanwhile a place in the Finals in Argentina is not restricted only to Spain's footballers. It seems new FIFA referee Angel Franco Martinez is on the short list for Argentina, with colleague Emilio Guruceta probably in the reserve slots.

Finally, the World Cup is already providing problems in domestic competition.

Last summer the FEF drew up two league fixture lists — one on normal lines, in case Spain didn't qualify for Argentina, the other including many midweek matches to bring forward the end of the season and give Kubala time to prepare for the Finals.

The clubs have now complained that it's ridiculous to expect them to play so many midweek matches, and at the time of writing the FEF are still trying to sort out a compromise. This could involve the final stages of the Cup competition being put off until the start of next season.

News from Spain

by Keir Radnedge

assistant to Mesones, has shown little sign of getting to grips with the problem of a demoralised team.

Meanwhile, at the top it's much like old times — Real Madrid in the lead, four points clear of eternal rivals Barcelona, with the usual surprise team — in this case, Salamanca — a point or two further behind. Champions Atletico Madrid remain more preoccupied with staying out of the relegation zone.

Atletico's troubles increased with the 4-2 defeat by Real in the Madrid derby. And not only were they well beaten, but Jose Capon and Ruben Ayala were sent off in the process. The Dane, Henning Jensen, scored a fine opening goal for Real after 12 minutes, Carlos Santillana confirmed his renaissance with two in the 41st and 66th minutes, and Vicente del Bosque tied it all up a minute from time.

Real lost

Atletico replied through Javier Aguilar (29) and Ruben Cano (87), while Capon was sent off for fouling Juanito, and Ayala — Atletico's skipper — for dissent.

Real Madrid lost the next week — 1-0 away to Cadiz — but then scored a convincing double over Santander inside four days. First in the Cup Madrid won 5-1 — Uli Stielike, Juanito two and Santillana two — then in the league won 2-0 with more goals from Juanito and Santillana. That took Santillana on to 15 in the league this season, level progress with Valencia's Mario Kempes at the head of the scoring lists.

But much of the interest in the Madrid-Santander matches centred on a 17-year-old outside right named Marcos Alonso playing for Santander. Marcos happens to be the son of Marquitos, centre back then right back in Madrid's European Cup triumphs. He did well too, despite the defeats, and might soon be following in his father's footsteps.

Kempes kept up with Santillana thanks to two goals in a 3-1 win over Bilbao, but whether Valencia have finally solved their attacking problems remains doubtful. But this time, nearly halfway through the season, they had yet to score away from home, and Paraguayan star Carlos Diarte had only recently scored for the first time this term, in a 4-1 win over Elche.

Elche also went down to Barcelona a week or two later — this time 3-1 after going 1-0 up and then seeing CFB goalkeeper Artola save a penalty. Carlos Rexach was the Barcelona hero, scoring twice.

With Johan Neeskens out for two months after a leg operation, Barcelona have a fight on their hands in keeping up with Madrid. But skipper Johan Cruyff warned that the battle was not yet over — he desperately wants to take Barcelona to the title in what he says is his last season.

The day Barcelona were beating Elche, Salamanca suffered a setback in their remarkable surge up the table, losing 3-1 to Bilbao. Last season's UEFA Cup Finalists have had plenty of trouble, with Checha Rojo's serious injury and skipper Jose Iribar's erratic form. But on this occasion they showed signs of a revival, centre forward Dani scoring twice, and Carlos getting the other.

Salamanca fought back briefly early on, equalising at 1-1 with a controversial penalty converted by Portugal midfielder Joao Alves. He's been in fine form lately, but upset some of the fans with a bald statement that he would like to leave Salamanca and go to a club with some chance of winning something.

The other surprise club have been Rayo Vallecano. Coach Hector Nunez has managed their limited sources astutely, though he admits that a rash of disciplinary or injury troubles would put severe pressure on them.

Disciplinary problems are at their most acute however at Atletico Madrid. They top the list of bad boys so far with five players having been suspended. Meanwhile coach Luis Aragones is prepared for more trouble — Brazilian sweeper Luiz Pereira will soon be talking over a new contract, and he wants one worth £270,000.

That would be for three years, which would make Pereira considerably better paid than Heriberto Herrera, for example. He joined Espanol for £90,000 over the next 18 months.

Break in Bulgaria

AFTER the first half of the 1977-78 season in Bulgaria the top team is Lokomotive Sofia, who lead CSKA by two points, writes A. Taniellan.

The club, founded in 1929, previously won the title in 1940, 1945 and 1964 and have been runners-up on five other occasions.

During the 15 rounds played so far the leadership has changed hands six times. The last games before the break caused a surprise, with Lokomotive beating Levski Spartak and CSKA losing to Slavia.

Top scorer to date is Jeliaskov (Slavia) with 12 goals, followed by Minchev (Slavia), Mladenov (Beroe) with 11 each.

The quality of play this season has been unsatisfactory, with too much violence on the field. So far 136 cautions and 11 sending offs have been recorded.

All Bulgaria's representatives in the various European competitions. The national team lost its chance of a place in Argentina to France.

Several top clubs will be touring abroad during the winter break. Levski will play in Greece, CSKA in Spain while the national youth team will play a tournament in Italy.

The league championship is scheduled to restart on February 25 with the eighth and quarter rounds of the Cup taking place before then. The championship will end on June 10, with the Cup Final taking place on May 31.

ARG

ASIA

Winners of Groups I to IV to be known by 31.3.77

OCEANIA

Winner to be known by 31.7.77

Group I	Group II	Group III	Group IV	
Hong Kong	Israel	Iran	Bahrain	Australia
Indonesia	Japan		Kuwait	New Zealand
Malaysia		Saudi Arabia	Qatar	Taiwan
Thailand	Rep. Korea	Syria		
Singapore				
Sri Lanka				
Hong Kong	Rep. Korea	Iran	Kuwait	Australia

1.4 to 31.7.77
Winner ASIA 1.8 to 30.11.77

Qualified for Argentina

ASIA/OCEANIA
Australia 3, New Zealand 1
Taiwan 0, Australia 3
Australia 2, Taiwan 1
N. Zealand 6, Taiwan 0
N. Zealand 1, Australia 1
Taiwan 0, N. Zealand 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	4	3	1	0	9	3	7
New Zealand	4	2	1	1	14	4	5
Taiwan	4	0	0	4	1	17	0

Group 1
Singapore 2, Thailand 0
Indonesia 1, Hong Kong 4
Malaysia 6, Thailand 4
Singapore 2, Hong Kong 2
Indonesia 0, Malaysia 0
Hong Kong 2, Thailand 1
Singapore 1, Malaysia 0
Thailand 3, Indonesia 2
Hong Kong 1, Malaysia 1
Singapore 4, Indonesia 0
Play-off
Singapore 0, Hong Kong 1

Group 2
27. 2.77 Israel 0, Korea Rep. 0
6. 3.77 Israel 2, Japan 0
13. 3.77 Japan 0, Israel 2
20. 3.77 Korea Rep. 3, Israel 1
26. 3.77 Japan 0, Korea Rep. 0
3. 4.77 Korea Rep. 1, Japan 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Korea Rep.	4	2	2	0	4	1	6
Israel	4	2	1	1	5	3	5
Japan	4	0	1	3	0	5	1

Group 3
12.11.76 Saudi Arabia 3, Syria 0
26.11.76 Syria 2, Saudi Arabia 1
7. 1.77 Saudi Arabia 0, Iran 3
26. 1.77 Syria 0, Iran 1
23. 4.77 Iran 3, Saudi Arabia 0
6. 4.77 Iran 2, Syria 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	4	4	0	0	6	0	8
Saudi Arabia	4	1	0	3	3	7	2
Syria	4	1	0	3	2	6	2

Group 4
Bahrain 0, Kuwait 3
Bahrain 0, Qatar 2
Qatar 0, Kuwait 2
Bahrain 1, Kuwait 3
Qatar 0, Bahrain 3
Qatar 1, Kuwait 4
(all matches played in Qatar)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kuwait	4	4	0	0	10	2	8
Qatar	4	1	0	3	3	9	2
Bahrain	4	1	0	3	4	6	2

19. 6.77 Hong Kong 0, Iran 3
26. 6.77 Hong Kong 0, Korea Rep. 1
3. 7.77 Korea Rep. 0, Iran 0
10. 7.77 Australia 3, Hong Kong 0
14. 8.77 Australia 0, Iran 1
27. 8.77 Australia 2 Korea Rep. 1
3.10.77 Hong Kong 1, Kuwait 3
9.10.77 Korea Rep. 1, Kuwait 0
16.10.77 Australia 1, Kuwait 2
23.10.77 Korea Rep. 0, Australia 0
28.10.77 Iran 1, Kuwait 0
30.10.77 Hong Kong 3, Australia 5
5.11.77 Kuwait 2, Korea Rep. 2
12.11.77 Kuwait 4, Hong Kong 0
Iran 3, Hong Kong 0
Iran 1, Australia 0
Iran 2, Korea Rep 2
Kuwait 1, Korea Rep 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	7	5	2	0	10	2	12
Kuwait	7	4	1	2	12	6	9
Korea Rep	6	2	4	2	7	6	8
Australia	7	3	1	3	11	8	7
Hong Kong	7	0	0	7	3	21	0

CONCACAF

Caribbean Area:

Group 1: by 31.8.76 Guyana, Surinam* — Surinam
Group 2: Trinidad*, Barbados — Trinidad
Surinam — Surinam
Group 3: by 30.4.76 Haiti*, Dominican Republic — Haiti
Netherlands Antilles* — Haiti
Haiti — Haiti
Group 4: Jamaica, Cuba* — Cuba
by 31.12.76

Caribbean Area
2. 4.76 Dom. Republic 0, Haiti 3
17. 4.76 Haiti 3, Dom. Republic 0
4. 7.76 Guyana 2, Surinam 0
31. 7.76 N. Antilles 1, Haiti 2
14. 8.76 Haiti 7, N. Antilles 0
15. 8.76 Barbados 2, Trinidad/Tobago 1
15. 8.76 Jamaica 1, Cuba 3
29. 8.76 Cuba 2, Jamaica 0
29. 8.76 Surinam 3, Guana 0
31. 8.76 Trinidad/Tobago 1, Barbados 0
14. 9.76 Trinidad/Tobago 3, Barbados 1
(3rd match in Barbados)
14.11.76 Surinam 1, Trinidad/Tobago 1
28.11.76 Trinidad/Tobago 2, Surinam 2
18.12.76 Surinam 3, Trinidad/Tobago 2
28.11.76 Cuba 1, Haiti 1
11.12.76 Haiti 1, Cuba 1
Play-off Haiti 2, Cuba 0

EUROPE

Group 1
23. 5.76 Cyprus 1, Denmark 5
16.10.76 Portugal 0, Poland 2
27.10.76 Denmark 5, Cyprus 0
31.10.76 Poland 5, Cyprus 0
17.11.76 Portugal 1, Denmark 0
5.12.76 Cyprus 1, Portugal 2
1. 5.77 Denmark 1, Poland 2
15. 5.77 Cyprus 1, Poland 3
21. 9.77 Poland 4, Denmark 1
9.10.77 Denmark 2, Portugal 4
29.10.77 Poland 1, Portugal 1
16.11.77 Portugal 4 Cyprus 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
POLAND	6	5	1	0	17	4	11
Portugal	6	4	1	1	12	6	9
Denmark	6	2	0	4	14	12	4
Cyprus	6	0	0	6	3	34	0

Group 2
13. 6.76 Finland 1, England 4
22. 9.76 Finland 7, Luxembourg 1
13.10.76 England 2, Finland 1
16.10.76 Luxembourg 1, Italy 4
17.11.76 Italy 3, England 0
30. 3.77 England 5, Luxembourg 0
26. 5.77 Luxembourg 0, Finland 1
6. 6.77 Finland 0, Italy 3
12.10.77 Luxembourg 0, England 2
16.10.77 Italy 6, Finland 1
16.11.77 England 2, Italy 0
3.12.77 Italy 3, Luxembourg 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ITALY	6	5	0	1	18	4	10
England	6	5	0	1	16	4	10
Finland	6	2	0	4	11	16	4
Luxembourg	6	0	0	6	2	22	0

Group 3
31.10.76 Turkey 4, Malta 0
17.11.76 German DR 1, Turkey 1
5.12.76 Malta 0, Austria 1
2. 4.77 Malta 0, German DR 1
17. 4.77 Austria 1, Turkey 0
30. 4.77 Austria 9, Malta 0
24. 9.77 Austria 1, German DR 1
12.10.77 German DR 1, Austria 1
29.10.77 German DR 9, Malta 0
30.10.77 Turkey 0, Austria 1
16.11.77 Turkey 1 German DR 2
27.11.77 Malta 0 Turkey 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AUSTRIA	6	4	2	0	14	2	10
Germany DR	6	3	3	0	15	4	9
Turkey	6	2	1	3	9	8	5
Malta	6	0	0	6	0	27	0

Group 4
5. 9.76 Iceland 0, Belgium 1
8. 9.76 Iceland 0, Netherlands 1
13.10.76 Netherlands 2, Northern Ireland 2
10.11.76 Belgium 2, Northern Ireland 0
26. 3.77 Belgium 0, Netherlands 2
11. 6.77 Iceland 1, Northern Ireland 0
31. 8.77 Netherlands 4, Iceland 1
4. 9.77 Belgium 4, Iceland 0
21. 9.77 Northern Ireland 2, Iceland 0
12.10.77 Northern Ireland 0, Netherlands 1
26.10.77 Netherlands 1, Belgium 0
16.11.77 Northern Ireland 3, Belgium 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NETHERLANDS	6	5	1	0	11	3	11
Belgium	6	3	0	3	7	6	6
Northern Ireland	6	2	1	3	7	6	5
Iceland	6	1	0	5	2	12	2

Group 5
9.10.76 Bulgaria 2, France 2
17.11.76 France 2, Eire 0
30. 3.77 Eire 1, France 0
1. 6.77 Bulgaria 3, Eire 1
12.10.77 Eire 0, Bulgaria 0
16.11.77 France 3, Bulgaria 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FRANCE	4	2	1	1	7	4	5
Bulgaria	4	1	2	1	5	6	4
Eire	4	1	1	2	2	4	2

Group 6
16. 6.76 Sweden 2, Norway 0
8. 9.76 Norway 1, Switzerland 0
9.10.76 Switzerland 1, Sweden 2
6. 6.77 Sweden 2, Switzerland 1
7. 9.77 Norway 2, Sweden 1
30.10.77 Switzerland 1, Norway 0

GENTINA '78

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SWEDEN	4	3	0	1	7	4	6
Norway	4	2	0	2	3	4	4
Switzerland	4	1	0	3	3	5	2

Group 7
13.10.77 Czechoslovakia 2, Scotland 0
17.11.76 Scotland 1, Wales 0
30. 3.77 Wales 3, Czechoslovakia 0
21. 9.77 Scotland 3, Czechoslovakia 1
12.10.77 Wales 0, Scotland 2
16.11.77 Czechoslovakia 1, Wales 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SCOTLAND	4	3	0	1	6	3	6
Czechoslovakia	4	2	0	2	4	6	4
Wales	4	1	0	3	3	4	2

Group 8
10.10.76 Spain 1, Yugoslavia 0
6. 4.77 Rumania 1, Spain 0
6. 5.77 Yugoslavia 0, Rumania 2
6.10.77 Spain 2, Rumania 0
13.11.77 Rumania 4, Yugoslavia 6
30.11.77 Yugoslavia 0 Spain 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SPAIN	4	3	0	1	4	1	6
Rumania	4	2	0	2	7	8	4
Yugoslavia	4	1	0	3	6	8	2

Group 9
9.10.76 Greece 1, Hungary 1
24. 4.77 USSR 2, Greece 0
30. 4.77 Hungary 2, USSR 1
10. 5.77 Greece 1, USSR 0
18. 5.77 USSR 2, Hungary 0
25. 5.77 Hungary 3, Greece 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	4	2	1	1	5	4	5
USSR	4	2	0	2	5	3	4
Greece	4	1	1	2	2	5	3

EURO/SOUTH AMERICA PLAY-OFF
Hungary 6, Bolivia 0
Bolivia 2, Hungary 3

CONCACAF
(extra preliminary matches)
Northern Area
24. 9.76 Canada 1, USA 1
3.10.76 USA 0, Mexico 0
10.10.76 Canada 1, Mexico 0
15.10.76 Mexico 3, USA 0
20.10.76 USA 2, Canada 0
27.10.76 Mexico 0, Canada 0

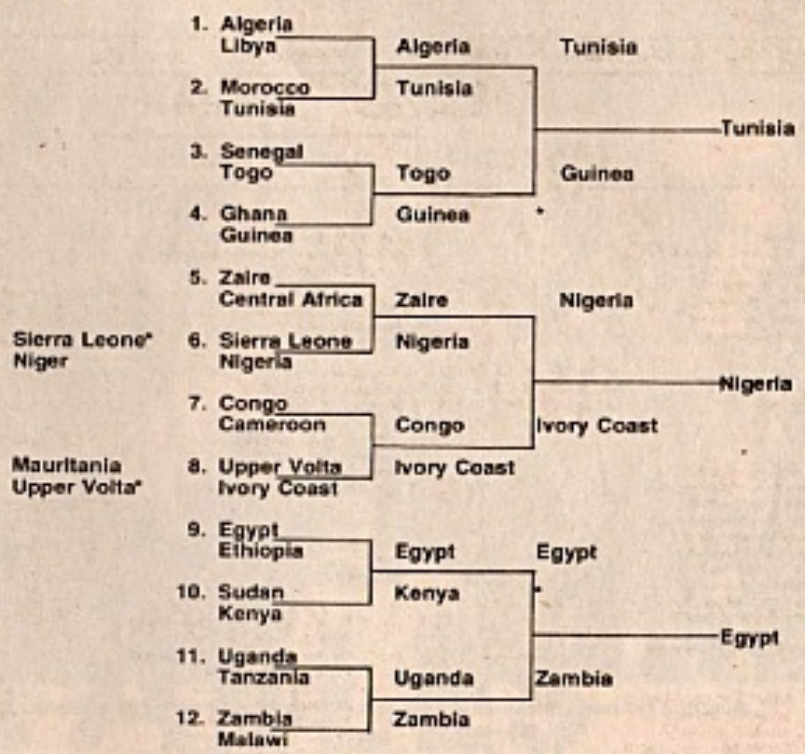
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	4	1	2	1	3	1	4
Canada	4	1	2	1	2	3	4
USA	4	1	2	1	3	4	4

Central Area
4. 4.76 Panama 3, Costa Rica 2
2. 5.76 Panama 1, El Salvador 1
11. 7.76 Costa Rica 3, Panama 0
1. 8.76 El Salvador 4, Panama 1
17. 9.76 Panama 2, Guatemala 4
26. 9.76 Guatemala 7, Panama 0
1.12.76 El Salvador 1, Costa Rica 1
5.12.76 Costa Rica 0, Guatemala 0
8.12.76 Guatemala 3, El Salvador 1
12.12.76 Guatemala 1, Costa Rica 1
17.12.76 Costa Rica 1, El Salvador 1
19.12.76 El Sevador 2, Guatemala 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guatemala	6	3	2	1	15	6	8
El Salvador	6	2	3	1	10	7	7
Costa Rica	6	1	4	1	8	6	6
Panama	6	1	1	4	7	21	3

Finals
8.10.77 Guatemala 3, Surinam 2
8.10.77 El Salvador 2, Canada 1
9.10.77 Mexico 4, Haiti 1
12.10.77 Canada 2, Surinam 1
12.10.77 Haiti 2, Guatemala 1
12.10.77 Mexico 3, El Salvador 1
15.10.77 Mexico 8, Surinam 1
16.10.77 Canada 2, Guatemala 1
16.10.77 Haiti 1, El Salvador 0
19.10.77 Mexico 2, Guatemala 1
20.10.77 Canada 1, Haiti 1
20.10.77 El Salvador 3, Surinam 2
22.10.77 Mexico 3, Canada 1
23.10.77 Haiti 1, Surinam 0
23.10.77 Guatemala 2, El Salvador 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MEXICO	6	5	0	0	20	5	10
Haiti	6	3	1	1	8	6	7
Canada	6	2	1	2	7	8	5
El Salvador	6	2	1	2	8	9	5
Guatemala	6	1	1	3	8	10	3
Surinam	6	0	0	6	6	17	0



(Tanzania, Sudan, Central Africa and Zaire withdrew)

AFRICA
Extra Preliminary Round
7. 3.76 Sierra Leone 5, Niger 1
21. 3.76 Niger 2, Sierra Leone 1
13. 3.76 Upper Volta 1, Mauritania 1
28. 3.76 Mauritania 0, Upper Volta 2

First Round
1. 4.76 Algeria 1, Libya 0
16. 4.76 Libya 0, Algeria 0
9. 5.76 Zambia 4, Malawi 0
30. 5.76 Malawi 0, Zambia 1
4. 9.76 Upper Volta 1, Ivory Coast 1
25. 9.76 Ivory Coast 3, Upper Volta 0
31.10.76 Senegal 1, Togo 1
17.10.76 Togo 1, Senegal 0
10.10.76 Ghana 2, Guinea 1
16.10.76 Sierra Leone 0, Nigeria 0
30.10.76 Nigeria 6, Sierra Leone 2
17.10.76 Congo 2, Cameroon 2
31.10.76 Cameroon 0, Congo 2
Guinea 2, Ghana 1
29.10.76 Egypt 3, Ethiopia 0
14.11.76 Ethiopia 1, Egypt 2
12.12.76 Morocco 1, Tunisia 1
9. 1.77 Tunisia 1, Morocco 1
16. 1.77 Ghana 0, Guinea 2 (play-off)

Second Round
Tunisia 2, Algeria 0
Algeria 1, Tunisia 1
Togo 0, Guinea 2
Guinea 2, Togo 1
Congo 2, Ivory Coast 3
Ivory Coast 3, Congo 1
Kenya 0, Egypt 0
Egypt 1, Kenya 0
Uganda 1, Zambia 0
Zambia 2, Uganda 1

5. 6.77 Guinea 1, Tunisia 0
19. 6.77 Tunisia 3, Guinea 1
24. 7.77 Ivory Coast v Nigeria
10. 7.77 Nigeria 4, Ivory Coast 0
15. 7.77 Egypt 2, Zambia 0
31. 7.77 Zambia 0, Egypt 0

Finals
25. 9.77 Tunisia 0, Nigeria 0
8.10.77 Nigeria 4, Egypt 0
21.10.77 Egypt 3, Nigeria 1
12.11.77 Nigeria 0, Tunisia 1
25.11.77 Egypt 3 Tunisia 2
11.12.77 Tunisia 4, Egypt 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
TUNISIA	4	2	1	1	7	4	5
Egypt	4	2	0	2	7	11	4
Nigeria	4	1	1	2	5	4	3

SOUTH AMERICA
Group 1
20. 2.77 Colombia 0, Brazil 0
24. 2.77 Colombia 0, Paraguay 1
6. 3.77 Paraguay 1, Colombia 1
9. 3.77 Brazil 6, Colombia 0
13. 3.77 Paraguay 0, Brazil 1
17/20. 3.77 Brazil 1, Paraguay 1

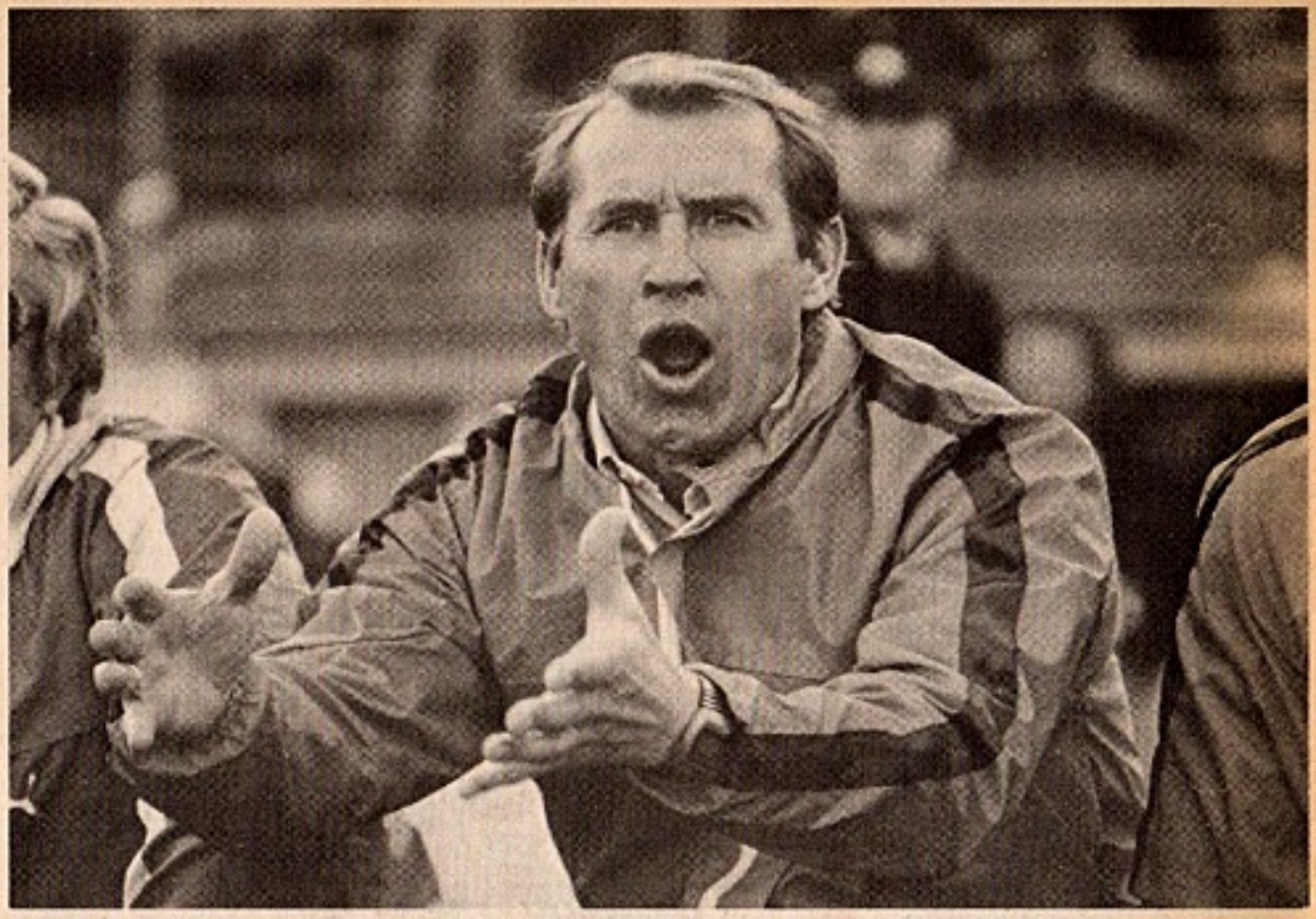
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	4	2	2	0	8	1	6
Paraguay	4	1	2	1	3	3	4
Colombia	4	0	2	2	1	8	2

Group 2
9. 2.77 Venezuela 1, Uruguay 1
27. 2.77 Bolivia 1, Uruguay 0
6. 3.77 Venezuela 1, Bolivia 3
13. 3.77 Bolivia 2, Venezuela 0
17. 3.77 Uruguay 2, Venezuela 0
27. 3.77 Uruguay 2, Bolivia 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivia	4	3	1	0	8	3	7
Uruguay	4	1	2	1	5	4	4
Venezuela	4	0	1	3	2	8	1

Group 3
20. 2.77 Ecuador 1, Peru 1
27. 2.77 Ecuador 0, Chile 1
6. 3.77 Chile 1, Peru 1
12. 3.77 Peru 4, Ecuador 0
20. 3.77 Chile 3, Ecuador 0
26. 3.77 Peru 2, Chile 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Peru	4	2	2	0	8	2	6
Chile	4	2	1	1	5	3	5
Ecuador	4	0	1	3	1	9	1



Austrian trainer Senekowitsch shouts at his team during their World Cup match against Turkey in Vienna.

June 13, 1976 in Helsinki
FINLAND (1) 1 (Paatelainen)
ENGLAND (2) 4 (Pearson, Keegan 2, Channon)
Finland: Enckelman; Vihtila, Tolsa, Makinen, Ranta, Jantunen, Suomalainen (Pyykko), Esa Heiskanen, Rissanen, Aki Heiskanen, Paatelainen.
England: Clemence; Todd, Mills, Thompson, Madeley, Cherry, Keegan, Channon, Pearson, Brooking, Francis (G).
Attendance: 25,000.

September 22, 1976 in Helsinki
FINLAND (3) 7 (Esa Heiskanen 2, Rissanen 2, Aki Heiskanen, Heikkinen, Makinen pen.)
LUXEMBOURG (0) 1 (Gilbert Zender)
Finland: Enckelman; Heikkinen, Vihtila, Makinen, Ranta, Jantunen (Pyykko), Esa Heiskanen, Aki Heiskanen, Rissanen, Paatelainen (Nieminen), Toivola.
Luxembourg: Raymond Zender; Schaul, Flenghi (Gilbert Zender), Hansen, Margue, Dresch, Pilot, Philipp, Orioli, Braun, Dussier.
Attendance: 4,555.

October 13, 1976 at Wembley
ENGLAND (1) 2 (Tueart, Royle)
FINLAND (0) 1 (Nieminen)
England: Clemence; Todd, Beattie, Thompson, Greenhoff, Wilkins, Keegan, Channon, Royle, Brooking (Mills), Tueart (Hill).
Finland: Enckelman; Heikkinen, Vihtila, Makinen, Ranta, Jantunen (Esa Heiskanen), Suomalainen (Pyykko), Toivola, Nieminen, Aki Heiskanen, Paatelainen.
Attendance: 92,000.

October 16, 1976 in Luxembourg
LUXEMBOURG (0) 1 (Braun)
ITALY (2) 4 (Bettega 2, Graziani, Antognoni)
Luxembourg: Raymond Zender; Schaul, Mond, Pilot, De Grava, Orioli (Langers), Dresch, Margue, Krecke, Dussier, Braun.
Italy: Zoff; Facchetti, Tardelli, Mozzini, Rocca, Causio, Capello, Antognoni, Patrizio Sala, Graziani, Bettega.
Attendance: 13,000.

November 17, 1976 in Rome
ITALY (1) 2 (Antognoni, Bettega)
ENGLAND (0) 0
Italy: Zoff; Cuccureddu, Tardelli, Benetti, Gentile, Facchetti, Causio, Capello, Graziani, Antognoni, Bettega.
England: Clemence; Clement (Beattie), Mills, Greenhoff, McFarland, Hughes, Keegan, Channon, Bowles, Cherry, Brooking.
Attendance: 85,000.

March 30, 1977 at Wembley
ENGLAND (1) 5 (Keegan, Francis T., Kennedy, Channon 2, 1 pen)
LUXEMBOURG (0) 0
England: Clemence; Gidman, Cherry, Kennedy, Watson, Hughes, Keegan, Channon, Royle (Mariner), Francis (T), Hill.
Luxembourg: Raymond Zender; Fandel, Margue, Mond, Pilot, Zuang, Di Domenico (Orioli), Dresch, Braun, Philipp, Dussier.
Attendance: 81,000.

May 26, 1977 in Luxembourg
LUXEMBOURG (0) 0
FINLAND (0) 1 (Aki Heiskanen)
Luxembourg: Raymond Zender; Barthel (Orioli), Pilot, Mond, Fandel, Zuang, Krecke, Margue, Michaux, Dussier, Braun.
Finland: Enckelman; Heikkinej, Ranta, Tolsa, Vihtila, Jantunen, Toivola (Nieminen), Aki Heiskanen (Haaskivi), Suomalainen, Rissanen, Paatelainen.
Attendance: 1,500.

June 8, 1977 in Helsinki
FINLAND (0) 0
ITALY (1) 3 (Gentile, Bettega, Benetti)
Finland: Enckelman; Heikkinej, Vihtila, Tolsa, Ranta, Jantunen, Suomalainen, Toivola (Nieminen), Rissanen, Aki Heiskanen (Narva), Paatelainen.
Italy: Zoff; Facchetti, Tardelli, Mozzini, Gentile, Causio (Claudio Sala), Benetti, Zaccarelli, Antognoni, Graziani, Bettega.
Attendance: 17,531.

October 12, 1977 in Luxembourg
LUXEMBOURG (0) 0
ENGLAND (1) 2 (Kennedy, Mariner)
Luxembourg: Koes; Barthel, Rohmann, Fandel (Zangerle), Mond, Zuang, Monacelli, Philipp, Michaud, Dussier, Braun (Di Domenico).
England: Clemence; Cherry, Watson (Beattie), Hughes, Kennedy, Callaghan, McDermott (Whymark), Wilkins, Francis (T), Mariner, Hill.
Attendance: 14,000.

October 15, 1977 in Turin
ITALY (3) 6 (Bettega 4, Graziani, Zaccarelli)
FINLAND (0) 1 (Haaskivi)
Italy: Zoff; Tardelli, Facchetti, Mozzini, Gentile, Benetti, Causio, Zaccarelli, Antognoni, Graziani, Bettega.
Finland: Enckelman; Suomalainen (Valtiner), Ranta, Jantunen, Vihtila, Makinen, Haaskivi, Toivola, Suhonen, Aki Heiskanen (Heikkinen), Paatelainen.
Attendance: 62,888.

November 16, 1977 at Wembley
ENGLAND (1) 2 (Keegan, Brooking)
ITALY (0) 0
England: Clemence; Neal, Watson, Hughes, Cherry, Wilkins, Brooking, Keegan (Francis), Coppell, Latchford (Pearson), Barnes.
Italy: Zoff; Tardelli, Mozzini, Facchetti (Cuccureddu), Gentile, Causio, Zaccarelli, Benetti, Antognoni, Graziani (Claudio Sala), Bettega.
Attendance: 90,000.

December 3, 1977 in Rome
ITALY (2) 3
LUXEMBOURG (0) 0
Attendance: 90,000.

October 31, 1976 in Izmir
TURKEY (1) 4 (Cemil 3, Kucuk Mehmet)
MALTA (0) 0
Turkey: Sencil; Turgay, Alpaslan, Ali, Kucuk Mehmet,

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

Part two—Italy and Austria

Fatih, Kemal, Ali Kemal, Cemil, Isa.
Malta: Mizzi; Fouder, Farrugia, Dormann, Holland, Fenech, Vella, Vassallo, Xuereb (R), Xuereb (G), Magro.
Attendance: 70,000.

November 17, 1976 in Dresden
EAST GERMANY (1) 1 (Kotte pen.)
TURKEY (1) 1 (Cemil pen.)
East Germany: Croy; Schnuck (Dorner), Kische, Weise, Müller (K), Lauck (Riedel), Kotte, Hafner, Schade, Streich, Heidler.
Turkey: Senol; Fatih, Turgay, Alpaslan, Ismail, Erol, Kadir, Ali Asan (Nedati), Kucuk Mehmet, Ali Kemal, Cemil.
Attendance: 18,000.

December 5, 1976 in Gzira
MALTA (0) 0
AUSTRIA (0) 1 (Krankl)
Malta: Mizzi; Borg, Vassallo, Holland, Farrugia, Dormann, Magro, Micallef, Xuereb (G), Xuereb (R), Seychell.
Austria: Friedl; Koncilia; Sara, Persidis, Pezzey, Strasser, Hickersberger, Oberhofer, Hattenberger, Stering (Prohaska), Krankl, Schachner (Pirkner).
Attendance: 10,000.

April 2, 1977 in La Valetta
MALTA (0) 0
EAST GERMANY (0) 1 (Streich)
Malta: Galt; Cianter, Farrugia, Micallef, Dormann, Holland, Magro, Azzopardi, Xuereb (G) (Fabri, Xuereb (R), Seychell.
East Germany: Grapenthin; Kische, Dorner, Weise, Kurbjuweit, Lauck, Heidler (Schade), Hafner, Streich, Riediger, Hoffmann.
Attendance: 8,000.

April 17, 1977 in Vienna
AUSTRIA (1) 1 (Schachner)
TURKEY (0) 0
Austria: Friedl; Koncilia; Sara, Persidis, Pezzey, Breitenberger, Hattenberger, Prohaska, Hickersberger, Stering, Krankl, Schachner.
Turkey: Senol; Turgay, Erol, Nedati, Alpaslan, Fatih, Nico (Cem), Mehmet (Hussayin), Engin, Ali Kemal, Cemil.
Attendance: 70,000.

April 30, 1977 in Salzburg
AUSTRIA (4) 9 (Krankl 6, Sterling 2, Pirkner)
MALTA (0) 0
Austria: Friedl; Koncilia; Sara, Pezzey, Strasser, Hattenberger, Prohaska, Hickersberger, Stering (Peter Koncilia), Krankl, Schachner (Pirkner).
Malta: Galt; Cianter, Schembri, Dormann, Holland, Farrugia, Micallef, Farrie, Xuereb (R), Magro, Seychell (Xuereb G).
Attendance: 18,000.

September 24, 1977 in Vienna
AUSTRIA (1) 1 (Kreuz)
EAST GERMANY (1) 1 (Hoffmann)
Austria: Friedl; Koncilia; Sara, Krieger, Pezzey, Breitenberger, Hattenberger, Hickersberger, Jara (Prohaska), Stering, Kreuz, Krankl.
East Germany: Croy; Kische, Dorner, Weise, Weber, Hafner, Schade, Heidler (Riediger), Lindemann, Kotte (Sparwasser), Hoffmann.
Attendance: 72,000.

October 12, 1977 in Leipzig
EAST GERMANY (0) 1 (Lowe)
AUSTRIA (1) 1 (Hattenberger)
East Germany: Croy; Kische, Dorner, Weise, Weber, Schade, Hafner, Lindemann, Lowe, Kotte (Riediger), Hoffmann.
Austria: Friedl; Koncilia; Krieger, Sara, Pezzey, Breitenberger, Hattenberger, Prohaska (Obermayer), Hickersberger, Jara, Stering, Kreuz.
Attendance: 100,000

October 29, 1977 in Potsdam
EAST GERMANY (3) 9 (Hoffmann 3, Strich 3, Schade, Sparwasser, Weber)
MALTA (0) 0
East Germany: Croy; Kische, Dorner, Weise, Weber, Schade, Pommerenke (Streich), Hafner, Riediger, Sparwasser, Hoffmann.
Malta: Debono; Cianter (Farrugia), Borg, Holland, Camilleri, Azzopardi, Magro, Vassallo, Xuereb (G), Xuereb (R), Micallef (Dormann).
Attendance: 23,000.

October 30, 1977 in Izmir
TURKEY (0) 0
AUSTRIA (0) 1 (Prohaska)
Turkey: Eser; Erol, Fatih, Turgay, Erdogan, Engin, Volkan, Sedat (Isa), Ali Kemal, Cemil, Mustafa (Gokmen).
Austria: Friedl; Koncilia; Sara, Krieger, Pezzey, Breitenberger, Hattenberger, Stering, Prohaska, Jara, Kreuz, Krankl.
Attendance: 70,000.

November 16, 1977 in Izmir
TURKEY (0) 1 (Oeder)
EAST GERMANY (1) 2 (Schade, Hoffmann)
Turkey: Eser; Turgay, Erdogan, Fatih, Erol, Volkan, Isa, Onder, Oner, Cemil, Mustafa.
East Germany: Croy; Kische, Dörner, Weise, Weber, Schade, Hafner, Lindemann, Riediger, Streich, Hoffmann.

November 27, 1977 in Valetta
MALTA (0) 0
TURKEY (2) 3 (Sedat 2, Cemil)
Attendance: 4,000.

LEAGUE TABLES

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	21	14	4	3	47	25	32
Aberdeen	22	12	5	5	36	20	29
Partick Thistle	21	10	3	8	30	32	23
Dundee United	21	8	6	7	24	17	22
Hibernian	21	8	4	9	20	20	20
Motherwell	22	8	4	10	27	29	20
Celtic	20	8	3	9	30	29	19
St. Mirren	21	7	4	10	32	34	18
Ayr United	21	7	4	10	24	38	18

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nice	22	14	3	5	49	32	31
Marseille	23	14	3	6	44	26	31
Monaco	23	12	6	5	40	27	30
Nantes	23	11	7	5	37	20	29
Strasbourg	23	10	8	5	47	27	28
St-Etienne	22	11	4	7	32	30	26
Sochaux	23	11	4	8	42	33	26
Laval	22	9	7	6	30	31	25
Bastia	22	11	2	9	31	28	24
Nancy	22	9	5	8	34	27	23
St-Germain	23	8	7	8	46	39	23
Lyon	23	9	3	11	41	35	21
Lens	22	7	5	10	32	32	19
Bordeaux	22	7	4	11	27	40	18
Valenciennes	23	6	5	12	31	42	17
Metz	22	7	3	12	22	39	17
Reims	22	5	6	11	20	35	16
Nimes	21	5	5	11	24	33	15
Troyes	22	5	5	12	23	44	15
Rouen	23	6	2	15	31	53	14

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV Eindhoven	19	15	4	0	47	7	34
AZ'67 Alkmaar	19	11	4	4	46	18	26
Twente Enschede	19	10	6	3	36	18	26
Ajax Amsterdam	19	10	5	4	35	23	25
Feyenoord R'dam	19	8	7	4	36	23	23
Sparta Rotterdam	19	8	6	5	30	20	22
Roda JC Kerkrade	19	8	6	5	25	22	22
Volendam	19	8	4	7	27	25	20
NEC Nijmegen	19	9	2	8	27	31	20
Vitesse Arnhem	19	6	7	6	26	35	19
Den Haag	19	8	1	10	32	38	17
NAC Breda	19	5	7	7	18	23	17
Haarlem	19	4	7	8	18	30	15
Utrecht	19	4	6	9	24	28	14
VV Venlo	19	5	4	10	24	41	14
Go Ahead Deventer	19	5	2	12	29	40	12
Amsterdam	19	4	3	12	23	47	11
Telstar Velsen	19	1	3	15	13	47	5

LEAGUE TABLES continued on page 50

TABLES

ARGENTINA: National Championship

Section A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newell's O.B. (Ros)	8	5	2	1	18	6	12
San Lorenzo	8	4	4	0	12	7	12
Ind. Rivadavia (Men.)	8	3	3	2	11	10	9
Gim. La Plata	8	2	4	2	12	11	8
San Martin Tuc.	8	2	4	2	13	13	8
Estud. Bs Aires	8	1	4	3	7	12	6
Ota. Mar del Pl.	8	1	3	4	5	10	5
Banfield	8	1	2	5	9	18	4

Section B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Est. La Plata	8	6	0	2	19	9	12
Boca Juniors	8	5	2	1	13	8	12
Rosario Cent.	8	4	1	3	9	7	9
Los Andes (San Ju.)	8	4	1	3	12	12	9
Cipolletti	8	4	0	4	10	13	8
Chac. Jun.	8	3	0	5	14	13	6
Quilmes	8	2	2	4	4	8	6
Cent. Norte Sal.	8	1	0	7	10	21	2

Section C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tall. Cord.	8	6	0	2	18	13	12
Racing Club	8	4	3	1	15	6	11
Velez Sars.	8	3	2	3	14	10	8
Colon Santa Fe	8	3	2	3	16	15	8
River Plate	8	3	1	4	17	11	7
Platense	8	3	1	4	15	19	7
Sar. Chaco	8	2	2	4	8	20	6
Gim. Jujuy	8	2	1	5	4	13	5

Section D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Independiente	8	6	1	1	18	8	13
Belgrano Cor.	8	5	3	0	15	6	13
Union Sante Fe	8	3	2	3	11	11	8
Atlanta	8	3	2	3	5	8	8
Huracan	8	3	1	4	11	14	7
All Boys	8	2	2	4	10	12	6
Argent. Jun.	8	1	3	4	6	12	5
At. Ledesma	8	1	2	5	5	10	4

COLOMBIA: Professional League final round

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jun. Baran.	9	6	1	2	13	9	13
Deport. Cali	9	4	2	3	17	12	10
Million. Bogota	9	4	2	3	13	12	10
Nacional Med.	9	3	4	2	13	9	10
Indep. Sa. Fe (Bog.)	9	2	3	4	12	15	7
Bucaramanga	9	2	0	7	11	21	4

CHILE: First Division (one game to go)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Union Espanola	33	20	9	4	70	28	49
Everton	33	19	9	5	61	38	47
Palestino	33	18	10	5	69	32	46
Colo Colo	33	14	12	7	51	42	40
Univ. de Chile	33	13	13	7	50	42	39
Lota Sch.	33	11	13	9	45	44	35
Concepcion	33	13	7	13	50	49	33
Audax Italiano	33	12	9	12	48	52	33
Aviacion	33	11	10	12	43	50	32
Green Cross	33	9	12	12	45	58	30
O'Higgins	33	10	10	13	39	43	30
Huachipato	33	9	12	12	38	43	30
Univ. Catolica	33	8	12	13	36	47	28
Nublense	33	8	11	14	38	45	27
Ovalle	33	9	9	15	42	50	27
Wanderers	33	8	10	15	49	66	26
San. Morning	33	5	15	13	32	49	25
Antofagasta	33	5	7	21	28	60	17

URUGUAY: First Division (after 18 games — 4 to play)

1) Nacional 30 pts; 2) Penarol 29; 3) Defensor 25; 4) Danubio 22; 5) Rentistas 17; 6) Wanderers, Bella Vista 15; 8) Liverpool 14; 9) Cerro, Sudamerica 13; 11) River Plate 12; 12) Huracan Buceo 11.

PARAGUAY: First Division (final positions)

1) Cerro Porteno 37 pts; 2) Libertad 34; 3) Olimpia 32; 4) Guarani 28; 5) Luqueno River Plate 26; 7) Tembetary, Rubio Ru 22; 9) Nacional 16.

VENEZUELA: Professional League (final round final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portuguesa	10	6	2	2	19	11	14
Estudiantes	10	5	3	2	12	8	13
Valencia	10	4	3	3	13	12	11
Portugues	10	3	4	3	14	14	10
Italia	10	4	1	5	16	16	9
Univer. Merida	10	1	1	8	10	23	3

BOLIVIA: Major League

Group A leaders: 1) Oriente Petrolero 13 pts; 2) Bolivar 12. Group B Leaders: 1) Petrolero Cochambamba, The Strongest La Paz 15. (all after 10 games).

ECUADOR: Final Championship round (after 2 of 5 games with bonus pts)

1) Liga Deportiva Universitaria (Quito) 6 pts; 2) Barcelona (Guayaquil) 5; 3) Universidad Catolica (Quito) 4; 4) Nacional (Quito) 3; 5) Emelec (Guayaquil), Deportivo Cuenca 2.

PERU: National Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alianza Lima	32	14	12	6	64	42	40
Sporting Cristal	32	15	10	7	61	30	40
Melgar	32	13	14	5	40	31	40
Col. Nac. Iquitos	32	14	11	7	40	37	39
Universitario	32	12	10	9	47	32	34
Col. Bolognesi	32	12	10	10	36	37	34
Sport Boys	30	13	5	12	37	48	31
At. Chalaco	30	9	11	10	42	40	29
Deportivo Junin	30	10	8	12	41	53	29
Union Huaral	30	9	10	11	43	52	28
Alfonso Ugarte	30	9	8	13	42	46	26
Defensor Lima	30	9	8	13	42	46	26
Juan Aurich	30	7	12	11	31	37	26
Leon de Huanuco	30	10	6	14	35	47	26
Deport. Municipal	30	6	10	13	36	46	22
Cienciano	30	6	9	15	21	37	21

(Top six continue playing each other in final round)

BRAZIL: National Championship Second round group leaders

Group G	P	W	D	L	F	A	B*	Pts
Corinth. S. Paulo	2	2	0	0	7	0	2	6
Sao Paulo	3	2	0	1	9	3	2	6
Inter. Porto Aleg.	3	1	1	1	7	4	1	4

Group H	P	W	D	L	F	A	B*	Pts
Bahia	3	3	0	0	5	0	2	8
Palm. S. Paulo	2	1	1	0	4	2	1	4
Santos	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	3

Group I	P	W	D	L	F	A	B*	Pts
Ponte Preta	3	2	1	0	5	0	2	7
Vasco da Gama	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	3
Joinville	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	3

Group J	P	W	D	L	F	A	B*	Pts
Botafogo Rio	3	1	2	0	4	3	0	4
Operario	3	1	2	0	3	2	0	4
Botafogo S. Pa.	3	0	3	0	4	4	0	3

Group K	P	W	D	L	F	A	B*	Pts
XV de Novembro	3	2	0	1	4	1	1	5
Flamengo Rio	3	2	0	1	4	2	1	5
ABC	2	1	1	0	3	2	0	3

Group L	P	W	D	L	F	A	B*	Pts
Atlet. Min. Ger.	3	3	0	0	7	2	2	8
Guarani	3	1	0	2	6	2	1	3
Santa Cruz	2	1	0	1	2	3	0	2

*Extra point for winning by more than one goal.

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cologne	20	13	2	5	54	28	28
Hertha BSC	20	9	6	5	31	31	24
Bor. M'gladbach	20	9	5	6	43	34	23
VfB Stuttgart	20	10	3	7	31	23	23
Kaiserslautern	20	10	3	7	35	35	23
Eintr. Frankfurt	20	9	4	7	38	27	22
Fortuna Düsseldorf	20	9	4	7	28	22	22
Schalke 04	20	9	4	7	29	29	22
Hamburger SV	20	8	5	7	34	33	21
Bor. Dortmund	20	9	3	8	36	37	21
E. Braunschweig	20	10	1	9	28	31	21
MSV Duisburg	20	8	4	8	40	35	20
Bayern	20	6	6	8	37	40	18
Saarbrücken	20	5	7	8	24	37	17
VfL Bochum	20	5	6	9	23	25	16
Werder Bremen	20	6	3	11	25	35	15
St. Pauli	20	5	3	12	28	45	13
1860	20	3	5	12	21	38	11

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	16	13	0	3	41	16	26
Barcelona	16	8	5	3	25	11	21
Salamanca	15	8	2	5	21	17	18
Athletic Bilbao	16	7	4	5	27	19	18
Rayo Vallecano	16	7	4	5	28	22	18
Sevilla	15	7	3	5	18	21	17
Valencia	16	7	3	6	26	17	17
Las Palmas	15	6	4	5	21	20	16
Gijon	16	5	6	5	20	20	16
Real Sociedad	16	6	3	7	23	18	15
Atletico Madrid	16	7	1	8	27	29	15
Real Betis	16	4	6	6	23	23	14
Español Barcelona	15	6	1	8	21	31	13
Burgos	16	4	5	7	16	22	13
Elche	16	6	1	9	21	35	13
Santander	16	4	4	8	13	22	12
Cadiz	16	4	4	8	15	30	12
Hercules Alicante	16	3	4	9	15	26	10

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	13	7	5	1	23	8	19
Milan	13	6	6	1	21	13	18
Vicenza	13	6	5	2	22	15	17
Torino	13	7	3	3	14	8	17
Perugia	13	6	4	3	21	15	16
Napoli	13	5	4	4	19	10	14
Inter	13	5	4	4	11	10	14
Lazio	13	3	7	3	14	15	13
Verona	13	2	9	2	11	13	13
Foggia	13	4	4	5	8	18	12
Roma	13	3	5	5	14	17	11
Atalanta	13	1	9	3	10	13	11
Genoa	13	3	5	5	13	18	11
Fiorentina	13	2	4	7	10	20	8
Pescara	13	1	5	7	10	19	7
Bologna	13	2	3	8	8	17	7

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Bruges	19	13	3	3	45	29	29
Standard	19	12	4	3	39	21	28
Bevren-Waas	19	11	3	5	30	16	25
Anderlecht	19	10	4	5	34	14	24
Winterslag	19	8	7	4	28	20	23
Beerschot	19	7	9	3	33	25	23
Lierse SK	19	9	4	6	28	25	22
SC Charleroi	19	8	4	7	28	30	20
Waaregem	19	8	3	8	29	27	19
Antwerp	19	7	5	7	28	24	19
Lokeren	19	6	5	8	24	21	17
RWD Molenbeek	19	6	5	8	34	33	17
Beringen	19	6	3	10	18	26	15
Kortrijk	19	4	6	9	22	32	14
La Louvière	19	5	3	11	18	36	13
Liege	19	4	5	10	24	31	13
Boom	19	4	4	11	23	46	12
CS Bruges	19	2	5	12	12	36	9

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PETER BARNES Manchester City

World SOCCER

IRAN

Back row, left to right: Kazerani, Hejazi, Ghasempour, Adelkhani, Iskandarian, Sadeghi.
Front row: Jahani, Aedolahi, Nazaki, Naylbagha, Parvin.